

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow
When I grow older...
Paul McCartney
on songs, life
and Lennon
Seeking the muse
Why good poetry
depends on
good fishing
On this day...
In 1882, a start
was made on a
Channel Tunnel

Portfolio

Today's Times Portfolio prize is £6,000, triple the usual amount because no one won yesterday or on Wednesday. Portfolio list, page 22; how to play, information service, back page. Tomorrow at least £22,000 can be won - £20,000 in the weekly competition and £2,000 in the daily.

Teachers vote for pay talks

Amid cries of "sell out" the smaller teachers' unions outvoted the National Union of Teachers to resume talks with the management based on an informal offer of 6.9 per cent aimed at settling the 10-month pay dispute. **Page 2**

Bullets dispute

An attempt by the Home Office to defuse the dispute between four police authorities and their chief constables has failed. **Page 2**

Reagan offer

President Reagan said he would accept a cut of 5,000 US and 11,500 Soviet troops in Europe, abandoning his insistence on prior agreement over existing numbers. **East stays cool, page 3**

Army reforms

A controversial year-long study has proposed wide-ranging changes in the way the army trains its officers. The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst is bitterly opposed to the recommendations since they may undermine its present attention to academic subjects. **March of change, page 14**

Fabius shock

Shock waves reverberated through French politics after the Prime Minister, M. Laurent Fabius, disagreed publicly with President Mitterrand over General Jaruzelski's Paris visit. **Page 10**

Singapore slump

Brokers estimated yesterday that one billion Singaporean dollars (£316 million) had been wiped off share values when Singapore Stock Exchange trading resumed after a three-day suspension. **Photograph, page 10**

MPs' break

The House of Commons will adjourn for the Christmas recess on December 30 and return on January 13. The House of Lords will adjourn a day earlier. **Parliament, page 4**



£105,000 wine

A bottle of 1787 Chateau Lafite wine bearing the initials of Thomas Jefferson, later US President, was sold for a record £105,000 at Christie's. **Page 3**

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Jobless total falls for third month in succession

Adult unemployment fell by 8,100 to 3,165,000 in November, equalling the June decrease, which was the largest since August 1979. It was the third successive month of decline.

Britain's balance of payments had a current account surplus of £1.2 billion in the third quarter.

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, rejected what he called "unfounded pessimism" on international economic growth and said prospects were very promising.

By David Smith and Sarah Hogg

Unemployment fell in November for the third month in a row - the first time this has happened for over six years. New figures on Britain's earnings overseas from service industries and the City of London suggest the economy is on track to meet the Government's forecast of a £3 billion current account surplus on this year's balance of payments, and the Chancellor told overseas bankers in London that worldwide economic growth was set to continue.

Mr Nigel Lawson rejected what he called "unfounded pessimism", saying that prospects looked very promising. Ministers are now confident that the jobless total has levelled off, and that further small falls are likely next year.

Adult unemployment fell by 8,100 to 3,165,000, equalling the drop in June, which itself was the biggest since August 1979.

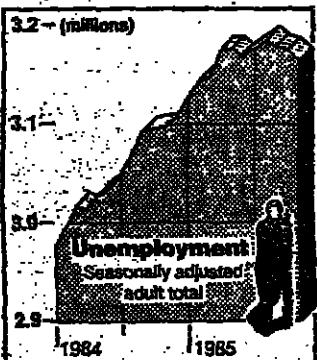
This is also the first time the adult total has dropped for three successive months since September 1979. Over the last six months there has been an average decline in unemployment of 2,000 a month. Again, it is necessary to go back to 1979, and the six months to November that year, for the last time this occurred.

Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Employment, said: "Of course unemployment remains too high, and it is too soon to see these figures as concrete evidence that it is on the way down. But they clearly add further weight to the view that the underlying trend is flat and we can all be encouraged by them. We are seeing the result of the Government's sound economic policy."

The unemployment figures were helped substantially by the expansion of government special employment and training measures. At the end of October, 449,000 people were in government schemes rather than claiming benefit.

The expansion of the Community Programme has had the effect of reducing unemployment by 5,000 a month over the past six months. Without that, unemployment would still be rising slowly.

There has also been an improvement in labour market conditions. The 2,000 a month fall in the adult total over the



He emphatically denied that the Group of Five agreement meant "target zones", had been set for the main currencies. But he said that all the participants remained firmly committed to concerted intervention in the currency markets.

The Chancellor said he expected growth in the main industrial countries to average about 3 per cent this year and that there were signs that growth is picking up in the United States.

World prospects page 19

Unesco pull-out attacked by MPs

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

The Government yesterday announced it would pull out of Unesco on December 31. The Prime Minister said the decision was taken in British interests.

But it was greeted with a barrage of criticism from the opposition parties and many senior Conservative MPs.

After the Cabinet had confirmed the withdrawal yesterday morning, Mr Timothy Raison, the Minister for Overseas Development, told MPs that the reforms made by the organization since the Government gave notice to leave a year ago had not been sufficient to justify continued British membership. The £6.4 million saved through her departure would be kept in the aid programme and spent on education, scientific and other activities, mainly through the British Council, to benefit the developing countries.

Parliament 4
Calls ignored 7

Mr Raison said that Unesco's work had been harmful politicized, its management had been inefficient, and there had been excessive spending and staffing at the Paris headquarters.

"It is sad that an organization which began with such high hopes and to which this country has contributed so much in the past should have gone so wrong," he said.

The withdrawal, following the United States a year ago, means the organization will lose a further 4.6 per cent, which is Britain's contribution, of its £1.39 billion budget.

The decision which many MPs doubted whether Mr Raison would have personally supported, provoked cries of "shame" when it was announced.

Mr George Foulkes, the Labour foreign affairs spokesman, described it as "another pathetic capitulation to United States pressure", and pledged that a Labour government would reject it.

Dr David Owen, the Social Democratic Party leader, said Britain now was an "international philistine, insular, inward-looking and mean-spirited."

There was backing from some Conservative MPs, notably Mr Robert Rhodes James, MP for Cambridge and a former senior officer at the United Nations, who said that Unesco had become a disgrace to international organizations.

But others had wanted Britain to fight for reforms from within, including Sir Anthony Kershaw, chairman of the all-party foreign affairs select committee, which recently recommended that membership should be continued, voiced their regret.

Continued on back page, col 4



Mr Anthony Mycock carries his possessions in a box after being freed by the Court of Appeal.

Mycock freed after Appeal Court rules conviction 'unsafe'

By A Staff Reporter

Anthony Mycock, the man who a BBC television programme claimed had been convicted of a crime that never happened, was freed by the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

Mr Mycock, aged 32, had served half of a five-year prison term for robbery.

Ordering the release, Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, said: "In short, and not without the greatest hesitation, we find this conviction unsafe."

But Lord Lane ruled that there had been a robbery. The robbery victim, Miss Anne Fitzpatrick, aged 31, a nanny now living in America, had not invented a robbery and it was not a figment of her imagination, he said.

Although the Court of Appeal accepted that Miss Fitzpatrick had been robbed, she had been shown to be untruthful in other respects. The conviction of Mr Mycock had to be regarded as unsafe, Lord Lane ruled.

The Lord Chief Justice criticized the *Rough Justice* programme, which was broadcast in Britain last October, and condemned the "outrageous" interview methods used by the programme's two investigative reporters, Mr Martin Young and Mr Peter Hill, in obtaining an interview with Miss Fitzpatrick, in which she retracted her original trial evidence.

"We take the view that the less we say about their performance in the witness box, the better", interview methods they used, had they been used by the police, would have merited instant condemnation from the courts, and indeed, from the *Rough Justice* programme itself, Lord Lane said.

"Our view is the interview methods adopted by the two investigators were outrageous, culminating in a thinly-veiled

threat to expose Miss Fitzpatrick as a lesbian."

But Lord Lane said that the *Rough Justice* programme, which he, Mr Justice Russell and Mr Justice Taylor, had viewed on Monday, had been useful in that people had since come forward to testify that Miss Fitzpatrick was prone to fanciful notions.

He gave a warning that "investigation by menaces" more often than not could have the opposite effect. "We express that hope that such discreditable behaviour will never be repeated," Lord Lane said.

"What was particularly distasteful was the enlistment of the eminent retired judge, Lord Devlin, to give credence to the programme". The court was told that Lord Devlin had not been shown the transcript of the interviews between the reporters and Miss Fitzpatrick.

Referring to the robbery, which Miss Fitzpatrick alleged took place at her flat in Church Lane, Manchester, on the night of May 30-31, 1983, Lord Lane said: "What the true story is no one will ever know. We will never know to what extent the facts have been embroidered by Miss Fitzpatrick. We shall never know how far her neighbours' view of her were coloured by the television interview."

Earlier, the court was told that Miss Fitzpatrick had been suffering from hysteria and treated for depression 10 weeks before the robbery. Friends and local people who knew her described her as a "romancer", prone to exaggeration.

Lord Lane said that Miss Fitzpatrick had not told the truth about property she claimed had been stolen by two intruders. She had admitted to

Continued on back page, col 7

Smith retracts race gibe

Harare (AP) - The former Rhodesian prime minister, Mr Ian Smith yesterday unreservedly apologized to Parliament for making allegedly derogatory remarks about Zimbabweans during a recent trip abroad.

Mr Smith was at the centre of a race row after telling the BBC that most Zimbabwean blacks were illiterate and ignorant about politics.

On Tuesday Parliament voted to order an inquiry into whether his statement constituted contempt of Parliament.

Yesterday he said: "It is my submission that this in no way amounts to contempt of Parliament, and this is my honest opinion. However, if at any time my behaviour did amount to contempt I apologize unreservedly."

Later, MPs passed a motion calling for him to disband his Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe party and to cease making remarks detrimental to Zimbabwe and its people.

Britain told: Pay for Australian A-test clean-up

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

The British and Australian governments closed ranks yesterday over the report of the Royal Commission into British Nuclear Tests in Australia, which tabled recommendations that could together cost them more than £100 million.

Canberra said it would make no official comment until it had studied "urgently and carefully" the 650-page report, and British officials held to the same position.

The report is itself proving something of a bombshell. Its key recommendations are that Britain should pay for a new clean-up operation on test sites contaminated by toxic waste, and that the Australian Government should pay compensation to Aborigines for loss of access to traditional lands.

The findings are more discomfiting for the Australian Government than for Whitehall: the onus falls on Canberra to act on the Commission's recommendations, which could pose difficulties for Anglo-Australian relations and create domestic problems.

As well as compensating Aborigines, the report says, Canberra should allow civilians and Aborigines whose health might have been affected to seek compensation through channels normally reserved for Government Employees.

Britain, the report says, has a legal and moral obligation to pay for a new clean-up, for though agreements with Canberra in 1968 and 1979 absolved it of further responsibility the full extent of contamination has been revealed only by the Commission.

It offers no conclusions on how to clean up more than 220 lb of plutonium buried or scattered over about 250 acres of the Maralinga hills in South Australia or its likely cost.

Scientific sources estimate the cost at between £30 million and £100 million.

But the question is bound to be raised by Britain of whether a further clean-up is necessary. The British case during the proceedings was that the waste at Maralinga is no longer hazardous.

© LONDON: The British Government yesterday made a point of emphasizing its willingness to co-operate with Canberra in discussing the report, although it is clear that some of

its recommendations are decidedly unpalatable to Whitehall (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

The feeling was that the report will cause the Australian Government more headaches than it will the British.

Mr Norman Lamont, the Minister for Defence Procurement, said yesterday he had accepted the offer of Senator Gareth Evans, the Australian Minister for Resources and Energy, for preliminary discussions at official level on those recommendations that refer to Britain.

Senior British officials will fly to Australia "as soon as is practicable", probably early in the New Year. Officials said a clean-up bill of £100 million was "pure speculation".

US and Britain conduct joint test in Nevada

Britain and the US jointly conducted a large underground nuclear test yesterday in Nevada, the Energy Department announced.

The test, named "Knobito" was requested by the British and was conducted under a 1958 agreement for co-operation on the uses of atomic energy for mutual defence purposes. The explosion had a yield of between 20 and 150 kilotons.

A British Embassy spokesman said the test was conducted in order to maintain the "effectiveness of our nuclear capabilities".

The independent British nuclear force is largely based on a Polaris submarine-launched missile system purchased from the US and is being modernized by Britain.

If you were deaf and blind...



... you could be totally dependent on someone else for the rest of your life - and probably you would never even speak.

RNID's Deaf/Blind Centre in Bath cares for Stephen and other youngsters like him. It gives them a home, for the present at least, but such care costs a fortune - with more staff than residents to meet their needs.

We urgently want to do more for more deaf/blind young people. Please help us to do so by giving what you can.

THE RNID's other services include medical research and extensive scientific, technical, educational, welfare, library and information services.

RNID. The Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

Please send what you can afford to RNID, Room T, 105 Gower Street, London WC1E 6AH. For details telephone 01-387 8033.

RUC blunder frees top terror suspect

From Richard Ford, Dublin

The aim of better cross-border security co-operation suffered a setback yesterday when a blunder by the Royal Ulster Constabulary RUC enabled a terrorist suspect to walk free from a Dublin Court.

Brendan Burns, wanted in Northern Ireland for questioning about the murder of five British soldiers, left the republic's High Court moments after his detention in custody was declared illegal. He put on a jacket and glasses as a semi-disguise and left the court, watched by two members of the republic's Special Branch.

His release was so sudden that relatives and members of Provisional Sinn Féin, political wing of the Provisional IRA, arrived at the court after Mr Burns, aged 27, from Crossmaglen, had been freed.

Minutes later Mr Burns and a friend were stopped by Police in O'Connell Street after the motorcycle they were on passed

£1/2m Rembrandt goes back on sale

By Geraldine Norman
Rembrandt's most famous etching, "Christ Presented to the People", was sold for £561,600 at Christie's yesterday. It was by far the highest price ever recorded for a print.

The buyer, Dr Frederick Mulder, 42, a London dealer, immediately announced that he was offering it for sale.

Rembrandt's "St Jerome Reading in a Landscape" had previously held the record at £121,812.

The print sold yesterday was one of some 300 sent for sale by the Duke of Devonshire from the famous print collection at Chatsworth, mainly formed around 1700. They brought a total of £3,614,533. More than 68 prints established new auction price records for their individual artists.

Eight very rare prints had previously been offered to the British Museum, and Christie's announced at the end of the sale that two had been bought. The other six would be returning to Chatsworth.

The museum has acquired a Castiglione monotype of "The Finding of Father's Arms" and a Robert, "The Widow St Francesca".

No prices were disclosed but another Castiglione, "The Creation of Adam", sold in the auction at £345,600 (estimate £60,000 plus). The museum presumably secured its print nearer Christie's estimate.

The prints, which were owned by the Chatsworth Settlement Trust, have never been on display to the public. The proceeds of the sale will help cover "the ever-increasing cost of maintaining the works of art at Chatsworth, which belong to the Trustees, and the cost of maintaining the Trustees' estates". The 300 or so prints are only a selection from several thousand in the Chatsworth collection.

The group included the finest impressions ever likely to come on the market of some of the rarest Old Master prints, and the prices reflected this one-off opportunity.

Talks fail to end dispute over plastic bullets

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

An attempt by the Home Office to defuse the growing dispute over the introduction of plastic bullets failed yesterday.

Chairmen of four police authorities and their constables at the centre of the controversy were brought together with Home Office officials yesterday but parted without agreement.

Mr Edwin Shore, chairman of the police committee of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said of the meeting: "The chairmen are utterly opposed to the introduction of these lethal weapons on the British mainland."

"This will mean a revolution in policing in this country. There is the real danger of tragic consequences not only for the public but for the police themselves."

Aggression bred aggression, he said. But police chiefs present said there was a need to have plastic baton rounds available.

The meeting followed backing by Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, for two chief constables who wished to define their police authorities and stock plastic bullets as a last resort weapon against rioters.

In Greater Manchester the Labour-controlled police authority under its chairperson, Mrs Gabrielle Cox, insisted that Mr James Anderson, chief constable, had no right to ignore its instructions to dispose of £3,500 of bullets and four dischargers.

But Mr Anderson disclosed that the riot control gear was on permanent loan from the Metropolitan Police and technically no longer belonged to the authority.

Both Mr Anderson and Mrs Cox were among those invited to the Home Office yesterday for consultation.

A Home Office statement said after the meeting that its officials and the chief constables emphasized that plastic baton rounds were only intended for use in the last resort when conventional methods of policing had been tried and failed, or must be unlikely to succeed if tried.

The statement added that if agreement could not be reached by police authorities and chief constables, he wished to make it clear that he had his own responsibilities. He regarded it as essential that the police should have the equipment and training they required to maintain order.

Blow to NUT as smaller unions vote for fresh talks

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

Amid chants of "sell out", teachers' unions voted in London yesterday for further talks with the management aimed at a settlement of the 10-month pay dispute.

By 15 votes to 13, the smaller teachers' unions were able to outvote the biggest teaching union, the National Union of Teachers, and agree that talks should take place on the last informal offer of 6.9 per cent, staged so that teachers receive 7.5 per cent by the end of next March.

Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers, the second biggest union which moved the motion, said he hoped that the local authority employers would respond positively and constructively.

"I look to them now to be in the earliest possible contact, and, once they have received our letter, to propose ways and means of getting back into Burnham committee negotiations." Although the dispute could not be settled by Christmas, Mr Smithies said that he would be glad if talks had not started by then.

A settlement of the dispute, which has meant strikes by teachers since February, is not, however, automatic. Although the smaller unions managed to sink their differences yesterday to defeat the NUT, they may not manage that again.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, declared that yesterday's decision would neither lead to a settlement nor to a lasting peace in schools. Pointing to the fact that the smaller unions regard any settlement this year as "interim", he said: "You cannot have an interim settlement that will lead to a temporary lull and bigger action next year."

The position of NAS/UNT militants is that even more serious industrial action will be taken next year, once this year's pay dispute is out of the way. The NUT disagrees with that tactic on the ground that it is difficult to bring union members out on strike shortly after they have gone back to work.

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said yesterday's decision represented a significant move to unblock the deadlock, but negotiations were going to be difficult. Informal talks were needed before another meeting of the Burnham committee, he said.

Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary of the no-strike Professional Association of Teachers, which abstained on a similar motion last time, was pleased with the small amendment he won. That said that teachers' unions stood ready to discuss the serious difficulties of the profession next year. That means talks on restructuring salaries and conditions of service.

British universities are among the most productive in the world and come almost top of the percentage of students who get degrees at the end of their courses, according to Professor Robin Marris, professor of economics at Birkbeck College, London.

They were more productive than North American, Japanese, West German, Swiss and Danish universities. The only country which scored better in degree production was France,

Schools shut in Scotland

Schools throughout Scotland were deserted yesterday as teachers staged a one-day strike in support of their 17-month campaign for an independent pay review.

The protest, estimated by the unions to have affected nearly a million pupils, was called by the Educational Institute of Scotland, the Scottish Secondary Teachers' Association and the NAS/UNT. The only union not taking part was the Professional Association of Teachers.

Teachers held mass rallies, the biggest of which was in Glasgow. Yesterday was chosen because it marks the first anniversary of similar action last year by the EIS alone.

Schools in the Irish Republic closed yesterday when 40,000 teachers staged a one-day strike in protest at the Government's reluctance to pay a 10 per cent arbitration award.

A head teacher whose loyalties were torn by the teachers' pay dispute killed himself the day after destroying a letter from a parent which accused him of being a traitor, an inquest at Coventry was told yesterday.

The letter was one of nearly 60 received by Mr David Newcombe, aged 46, from parents of pupils at St Christopher's primary school at Allesley Park, Coventry, after he had introduced plans to send home some of the children during the lunch break because of lack of staff supervision.

Mr Newcombe, a bachelor and Methodist lay preacher, was already depressed by the death of his father earlier this year and plans to reorganise his school, where he had been head for 14 years, the inquest was told.

Early last month he took the letters, most opposing his lunchtime arrangements, to Mr David Kershaw, another Coventry head teacher who was his friend, and broke down in tears.

The next morning Mr Newcombe's mother, aged 82, found a note from her son. His body was discovered inside his car in the garage of his home at Rochester Road, Coventry. Tubes ran from the exhaust to the interior and he had died of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Yesterday Mr Kershaw, head of Coundon School and Community College, said: "To send the children home affected David very deeply and created great strains and stresses for him. There was this appalling tension between his relationship and his loyalty to his teachers. He did not know which way to turn."

Mr Kershaw, secretary of the local branch of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "He did not want to say anything to his teachers because he did not want them to think he was not supporting them." Mr Newcombe had visited him the day before he died in an agitated state, and carrying 50 to 60 letters from parents. Some "were not as tactful as they might have been."

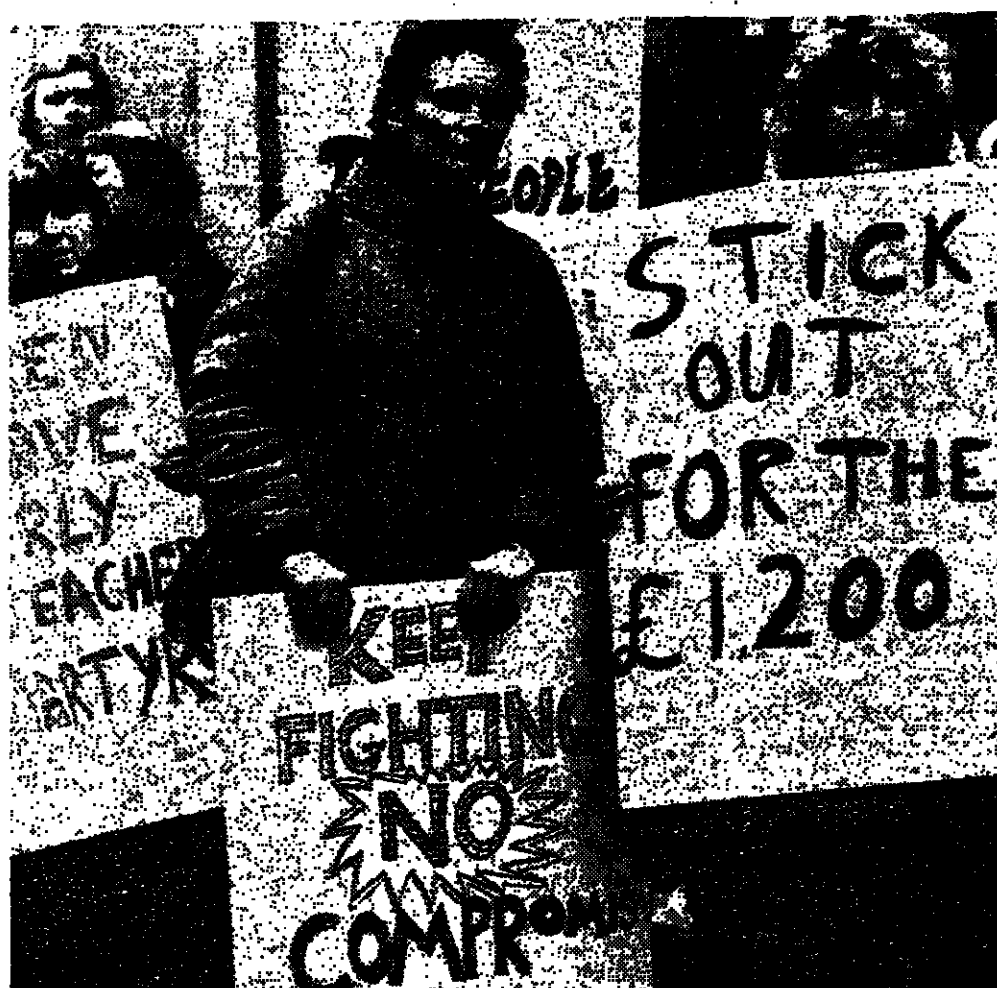
"He tore one of them up in my presence. I only read the first sentence. It said: 'Mr Newcombe, you are a traitor.'"

While drafting a new letter to parents, Mr Newcombe, who missed his father very much, had become tearful and emotional. "In my view, he was heading for a nervous breakdown," he said.

Earlier, Mr Michael Harris, of Stoneleigh Avenue, Coventry, a cousin of Mr Newcombe, said that he was already under pressure because of plans by the local education authority to reduce the number of his pupils. It was an issue over which parents were active and wanted the head to take a high-profile position, but he was loyal to the authority.

When the pay dispute started and children were sent home "parents who hailed David as some form of hero a few months earlier, labelled him as some sort of villain. He was very concerned about this and the letters he received from parents," Mr Harris said.

Mr David Sargenson, the coroner, recorded a verdict that Mr Newcombe took his own life while in a depressed state.



Teachers opposed to reopening pay talks lobbying outside the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association office in London yesterday (Photograph: Sean Smith).

Head killed himself over dispute

From Craig Seton, Coventry

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Rail shuttle scheme wins MPs' support in Channel contest

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

The Channel Tunnel Group's twin-rail shuttle received a somewhat hesitant vote of confidence from the all-party Commons Transport Committee yesterday.

The committee confirmed its 1981 preference for a rail shuttle, but after a three-week inquiry, but only on the casting vote of Mr Gordon, the chairman.

Mr Gordon is Labour MP for Sunderland South, during contentious private meetings over the report.

Without that vote the committee was prepared to support the rival Euro Route project on the ground that 74 per cent of people polled wanted a drive-through scheme.

Two contenders - Euro bridge, proposing a motorway suspension bridge, and Channel Expressway, with plans for a twin road tunnel with rail tracks, were ruled out on technical grounds, though there appeared to have been little analysis of them by the committee.

Committee Members were not even sure whether they wanted a fixed link at all. The report says that "some members of the committee see no economic or special necessity for such a link".

The report concludes that the balance of judgement for or against a fixed link is difficult to quantify and does not attempt to do so.

It adds: "This is a policy decision which Parliament must take and the committee has, therefore, considered which of the various proposals best meet the criteria."

The committee favours the Channel Tunnel Group on the grounds of known proven technology, low building costs, thought more likely to be on time and within budget.

The scheme is also favoured because it takes care to avoid environmental damage and because it uses rail and so would have less road impact on Kent and would be less likely to put ferries out of business.

On the report's own account, Euro Route appears to have been rejected largely by a remark during the public hearing by Sir Nigel Brookes, Euro Route's chairman, in answer to the committee's question: Would not his scheme still leave the Channel the world's most expensive crossing?

"I do not disagree with you I hope you are right," Sir Nigel replied. That cast some doubt on the real robustness of the Euro Route scheme, the report said.

Channel Expressway was rejected largely on grounds of ventilation and because its proposals to run trains on "tramlines" does not comply with the government criteria.

The committee is against a public inquiry, but is seeking a White Paper and full parliamentary debate.

Channel Link, House of Commons Transport Committee, Volume 1, Report and Minutes of proceedings (Stationery Office, £4.40).

459 leave Cyprus signals unit

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent

Roughly three-quarters of the personnel who were serving in 9 Signals Regiment in Cyprus when fears of a security leak emerged in February last year have since left the regiment.

This has emerged in replies by Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, in reply to parliamentary questions from Mr Kevin McNamara, an opposition defence spokesman. Eight members of the regiment were prosecuted at the Central Criminal Court and acquitted of offences under the Official Secrets Act.

The walk-out by staff from at least three of the six area social work offices came as councillors defended their decision to dismiss two social workers and the council's court officer in the social services department, but the British Association of Social Workers said it feared the dismissals could jeopardise future child abuse inquiries.

Brent council said Miss Gunn Wahlstrom and Mrs Diane Dietmann, the two social workers, and Mr William Thompson, the court officer, had until December 19 to appeal. The appeal procedure would give them the opportunity to put forward any mitigating circumstances.

The discharge rates appear to be about 50 per cent higher than for 14 Signals Regiment which is part of 1 Division based in West Germany. One Westminster source last night suggested that the rate of discharges from 9 Signals Regiment might indicate there had been a purge.

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday, that comparing 9 Signals Regiment with 14 Signals Regiment was not comparing like with like. The Cyprus Regiment was larger than the one in Germany and contained women and members of all three services, factors that might affect the rate of discharges.

There is evidence that some members of 9 Signals Regiment may have been led to understand that their career prospects in the services were not very good, and may therefore have decided to leave.

The regional finals will be: Glasgow, Grosvenor Hotel (capacity 300 competitors), Sunday, March 2, Leeds, Queens Hotel (300), Sunday, March 23; Birmingham, Grand Hotel (320), Sunday, April 20; Bristol, Grand Hotel (230), Sunday, May 18; London A, Sunday, May 31, and London B, Sunday, June 1, Park Lane Hotel (300).

The national final will be in London at the Park Lane Hotel on Sunday, September 7.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$20; Belgium 20; Canada \$20; France 20; Germany 20; Hong Kong \$20; India 20; Italy 20; Japan 20; New Zealand \$20; Norway 20; Portugal 20; South Africa 20; Spain 20; Sweden 20; Switzerland 20; Taiwan 20; Thailand 20; USA \$20; West Germany 20; Yugoslavia 20.

It was a remarkable testimony to the stability of Britain's constitutional system that the same house had been used by its prime ministers for 250 years, the Queen said.

Mrs Thatcher recalled that the house had been given by George II to Sir Robert Walpole. "It has been said that his motives were not those of true altruism. He had been told about the foundations of the house, like much else in the life of George Downing, the original builder, the foundations did not bear close examination."

The Collias Dictionaries/The Times Crossword Championship was so successful this year that next year an extra regional final is to be held in Birmingham. This will enable more than 350 extra solvers to take part.

The qualifying puzzle for the 1986 championship will be published on Thursday, January 23 (two weeks earlier than this year), and the eliminator puzzle, should it be necessary, on Thursday, February 27.

He reiterated a view put forward by Mrs Joan Maynard, Labour MP for Sheffield, Brightside, and shared by a majority of the committee, that the British farmer had in recent years opted for the "soft option" of producing feed grain for export rather than meat for intervention.

But Mr Body told him that while millions of tonnes of feed grain were going into storage, Britain was having to import three million tonnes of good quality milling wheat.

He said that "consequently there are not great mountains of grain. We are alone in that respect. We are alone as taxpayers in having to bear this burden which is running into hundreds of millions of pounds."

When pressed where it could be sold, he suggested Saudi Arabia. He blamed the failure to export more of the intervention

Nalco set to defy ballot law

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Editor

Britain's biggest white-collar union is set to defy the 1984 Trade Union Act in spite of this week's decision by the Transport and General Workers' Union to call a special conference to consider rule changes designed to bring its electoral system broadly within the law.

The National and Local Government Officers' Association executive has decided against calling a special conference of its own to consider changes to the indirect system by which it elects a minority of up to 12 of its 72-member executive.

The Nalco executive's indirectly elected members are based on sectional committees representing various occupational interests along the lines of the transport union's trade groups. The transport union executive, amid a mounting chorus of criticism from ministers, decided this week to call a rules revision conference to pave the way for individual members to elect its 14 trade group representatives by secret ballot.

But the position of the Nalco executive is currently that the union should proceed "business as usual" in respect of the sectional elections at least until challenged in the courts by one or more of the union's 780,000 members.

The issue has been sharpened within the union because of the success of a handful of prominent executive members in retaining their seats through sectional elections after losing out in the territorial polls. These include Miss Rhia Donaghy, the left-leaning vice-chairman.

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Union aims to oust 'ruthless Militants'

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Leaders of the largest Civil Servant union yesterday launched the first salvo in a campaign to reduce the influence in the union of Militant Tendency supporters, who were accused of using ruthless, secretive and undemocratic tactics.

Mr Alistair Graham, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, said last night: "There is plenty of evidence to show that many members are sickened, and unfortunately many non-members are deterred from playing an active part in CPSSA because of the activities of the Militant Tendency."

"Members must show their mettle, overcome their revulsion and kick them out of office in every city, town and village where they seek to abuse the union," he told a union meeting at Washington, Tyne and wear.

Mr Graham said that at the 5,000-strong branch at the Department of Health and Social Security computer complex at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, militant leadership was assured by sparsely attended annual meetings when elections were held.

"The branch rely on the apathy of thousands to keep control. If they were true democrats, they would subject themselves to an individual ballot of members to see if they had general support. They are very anxious to ensure that people like myself are subject to re-election by all members yet they shrink from applying these standards to themselves," he said.

The nine members of Labour's inquiry team who are to conduct the investigation into the Militant-dominated district party in Liverpool met in London yesterday to settle plans for the two days of hearings in the city (Peter Davenport writes).

The meeting discussed mechanics of taking the evidence of witnesses. Among the items said to be causing concern is how to reassure witnesses who feel intimidated and afraid to come forward.

Racial taunts at a college party led to a man being hacked to death by a group of others, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Steven Springett, aged 23, of Stonebridge Estate, Haresden, north-west London, and Andrew Agbe, aged 23, of no fixed address, were each jailed for four years when found guilty of affray and the manslaughter of Mr Daniel Fielder, aged 22. They were cleared of murder.

Mr Fielder, of Bracken Close, Whitton, west London, suffered 58 wounds from two knives and broken bottles during a party at his home held by Hammer and Sash and West London College last December.

He did not join in the party but stayed in his room armed with a knife and an Alsatian dog in case he was "invaded". He was overpowered and killed.

The fight started after a racial remark made by his girlfriend to an intruder.

Five other men were acquitted of being involved.

From the moment Mr Patrick Tory, chairman of the NFU's cereals committee, disagreed with Mr John Spence, the

The Queen dines with 6 out of 90

By Alan Hamilton

The Queen is now dealing with the nineteenth prime minister of her reign, she disclosed to a mere six of them over dinner on Wednesday night.

She was visiting 10 Downing Street as the guest of Mrs Margaret Thatcher to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the British Prime Minister's official residence, and captured the light-hearted spirit of the evening when she addressed her hostess and five of Mrs Thatcher's predecessors: Mr James Callaghan, Lord Home of the Hirsel, Lord Stockton, Lord Wilson of Rievaulx and Mr Edward Heath.

"You may or may not be surprised to hear that, as Queen of 18 realms, and following the swearing-in the other day of new prime minister in Papan New Guinea, I have now had 90 prime ministers," the Queen said.

In Britain, there had been eight prime ministers during her reign of nearly 34 years, she was approaching Queen Victoria's record of ten.

It was a remarkable testimony to the stability of Britain's constitutional system that the same house had been used by its prime ministers for 250 years, the Queen said.

Mrs Thatcher recalled that the house had been given by George II to Sir Robert Walpole. "It has been said that his motives were not those of true altruism. He had been told about the foundations of the house, like much else in the life of George Downing, the original builder, the foundations did not bear close examination."

The regional finals will be: Glasgow, Grosvenor Hotel (capacity 300 competitors), Sunday, March 2, Leeds, Queens Hotel (300), Sunday, March 23; Birmingham, Grand Hotel (320), Sunday, April 20; Bristol, Grand Hotel (230), Sunday, May 18; London A, Sunday, May 31, and London B, Sunday, June 1, Park Lane Hotel (300).

The national final will be in London at the Park Lane Hotel on Sunday, September 7.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$20; Belgium 20; Canada \$20; France 20; Germany 20; Hong Kong \$20; India 20; Italy 20; Japan 20; New Zealand \$20; Norway 20; Portugal 20; South Africa 20; Spain 20; Sweden 20; Switzerland 20; Taiwan 20; Thailand 20; USA \$20; West Germany 20; Yugoslavia 20.

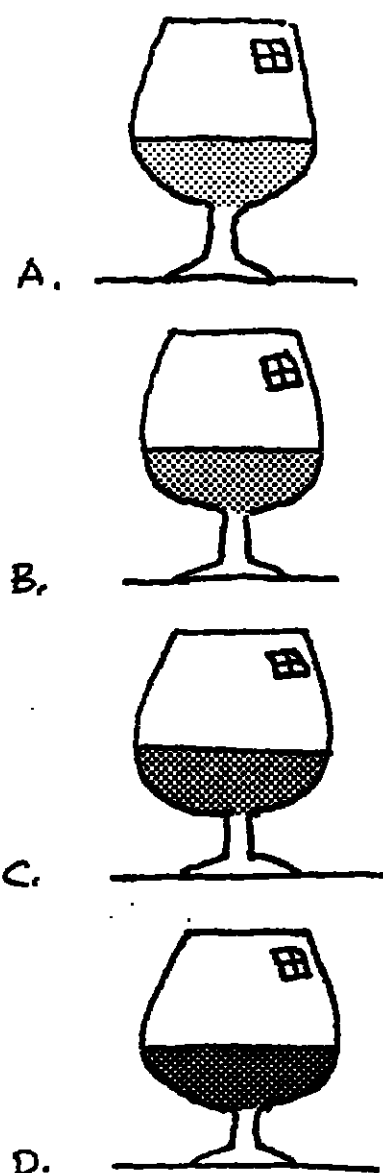
He reiterated a view put forward by Mrs Joan Maynard, Labour MP for Sheffield, Brightside, and shared by a majority of the committee, that the British farmer had in recent years opted for the "soft option" of producing feed grain for export rather than meat for intervention.

But Mr Body told him that while millions of tonnes of feed grain were going into storage, Britain was having to import three million tonnes of good quality milling wheat.

He said that "consequently there are not great mountains of grain. We are alone in that respect. We are alone as taxpayers in having to bear this burden which is running into hundreds of millions of pounds."

When pressed where it could be sold, he suggested Saudi Arabia. He blamed the failure to export more of the intervention

WHAT'S THE BEST COLOUR FOR A BRANDY?



ANSWER:

None of these. Jannneau white can never be satisfactorily depicted in black & white. Being a finer, Jannneau white Very Old Armagnac Brandy.

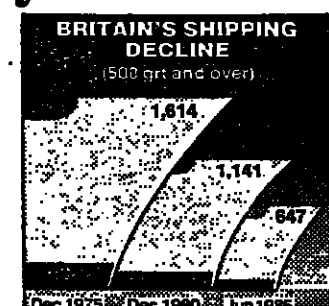
Shipowners seek tax help to buy cast-offs

By Our Transport Editor

Britain's once mighty merchant fleet, which has shrunk by two-thirds in the past 10 years, is looking increasingly to other people's cast-offs to stay afloat.

There are bargains to be had on the second-hand ship market as the shipping slump continues, but with what the industry describes as the world's worst fiscal regime, British owners - once the prime source of second-hand ships for others - may be unable to take advantage of them.

They are therefore, seeking for the first time a 50 per cent tax allowance that will apply to second-hand as well as new ships, Mr Brian Shaw, president of the General Council of



British Shipping, disclosed yesterday.

Typically of the kind of bargains available is a 10-year-old, 30,000-ton tanker for about £4 million compared with £9 million new.

MPs ridicule farmers' defence of grain mountain

By Richard Evans
Lobby Reporter

The National Farmers' Union received a humiliating and unprecedented mauling from the Commons agriculture select committee yesterday when it attempted to defend Britain's burgeoning grain mountain, now heading for a record seven million tonnes.

During a critical, hour-long cross-examination by MPs, many of the arguments put forward by the powerful farming lobby were systematically brushed aside and, in some cases, openly ridiculed. One Conservative MP ended up describing the union as "Johnny-come-latties".

From the moment Mr Patrick Tory, chairman of the NFU's cereals committee, disagreed with Mr John Spence, the

committee's chairman, that a reduction in Britain's cereal surplus was admitted he had no idea how much it cost to finance the grain in store. The figure is about £700 million.

Mr Body, the leading inquisitor, told him: "There is a limit to how much public money can be doled out. Some of us are under pressure over hospitals, schools being closed, and by-passes. We have to consider the best way of spending public money. It is important."

The MPs, who have been repeatedly told during their inquiry that much of the grain mountain made up of feed grain is unsellable, were visibly surprised when Mr Tory told them there was a

Sentences for polluting the environment too light, commission complains

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Puny sentences for polluting the environment often leave offenders "laughing all the way to the bank", the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution said yesterday. It complained that the fines for dangerous dumping of waste on land or in water were often far less than the saving made by dumping illegally instead of on a controlled site.

% SHARES OF UK WASTE		
Farming	20	
Mineral waste disposed on land	22	
Sewage dumped at sea	6.5	
Industrial waste	22.5	
Household, shop and medical waste	4	

HOUSEHOLD WASTE		
Year	Total (kg/ household/ week)	% share of ash
1980	17	56
1983	14	42
1980	11	14

agricultural industry and not the people on whom the pollution falls," Sir Richard said.

Chemical leaks: There was no history of dioxins causing death in humans, in spite of their lethal reputation. But it wanted more research.

Professor Sir Richard Southwood, retiring chairman of the commission, said: "We have been given evidence of examples where the penalties have been less than the cost of disposing of a material satisfactorily."

"Litter is a problem that has got very much worse in this country and is very unsatisfactory," he said after the commission had issued a long series of recommendations about making waste disposal safer and less conspicuous.

Recycling: More bottle banks were needed. Tins should be made of aluminium only so that they could be crushed after use and their metal used to make new ones. At the moment three-quarters of beer tins used more than one metal.

Cars: New cars should be fitted with litter bins to dissuade motorists from flinging rubbish out of the window. The commission wanted councils to be given the equivalent of police powers to trace the owners of dumped cars.

Hospitals: Their exclusion from clean air laws under Crown immunity should end. Many hospital incinerators belched out "copious black smoke" and did not meet the demands of clean air laws.

Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution (eleventh report), Cmd 9674, (Stationery Office, £12.50).

Milne defends EastEnders

By Michael Horsnell

Mr Alasdair Milne, director-general of the BBC, yesterday defended the controversial soap opera *EastEnders* which has been attacked by Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the television campaigner, and "backbench Tory MPs."

Mr Milne, who praised the producer of the series, Julia Smith, said: "She is an extremely good producer with a wonderful sense of morality."

What she is doing with *EastEnders* is really a contemporary morality play. Things happen in there that may be fairly shocking to some, but they are handled with great discretion and very cleverly."

He added: "The notion that if we looked at programmes in the sixties we'd find them wonderfully pure is rubbish. The *Wednesday Play* was a great deal more aggressive than our contemporary plays."

Mrs Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, has singled out *EastEnders* for what she claims is its bad taste (sex, pregnancy, drink, child death and blackmail) as an early evening series watched by children. Her criticism supports claims by MPs concerned about television sex and violence for an extension of the Obscene Publications Act, 1959 to cover the small screen.

Costs force PPP to offer discounts

By Nicholas Timmins

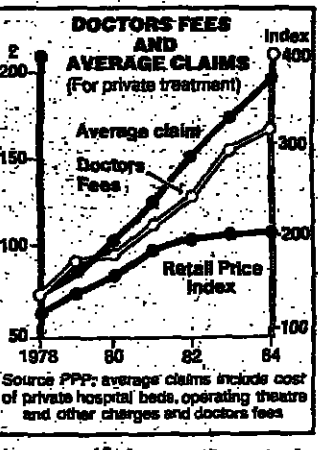
Mounting costs and higher claims for private medical treatment yesterday led Private Patients Plan, Britain's second biggest private health insurer, to introduce an insurance plan that allows premium cuts for people willing to forgo cover for some types of treatment and meet the first £85 to £220 of each year's claim.

Mr Roy Forman, PPP's managing director, said people who are privately insured are referred to consultants for an opinion or treatment twice as often as National Health Service patients. The average cost of claims has risen by 30 per cent in recent years, with both doctors' fees and private hospital charges running ahead of inflation.

With inflation in single figures, some private bed charges rose 15 per cent last year, with a 9 per cent increase already planned for next year by some groups, and with a 20 per cent increase in some private hospitals' operating theatre charges, Mr Forman said.

The result has been steep increases in premiums, up 25 per cent a year in the past two years, on PPP's main personal insurance scheme.

That is being replaced by a system of banding hospitals according to their charges and allowing people a 15 per cent



discount if they opt not to be covered for psychiatric treatment, many outpatient consultations and pregnancy complications, with a further 15 per cent off if they meet the first £85 of each year's claim for those in the least expensive hospital grouping, and the first £220 when covered for the most expensive private beds.

At the same time PPP will no longer cover people for long-term chronic renal dialysis, for infertility treatment, or for drug abuse and alcoholism or conditions caused by them.

On the decision to end cover for long-term dialysis, though not for those awaiting a transplant, Mr Forman said: "We are not a social service."

Commons to debate Live Aid pirates

A special adjournment debate

demanding tough government action on music pirates, who have cheated the Live Aid famine appeal out of an estimated £3 million, is to be held in the Commons on December 16.

Mr Jeremy Hanley, Conservative MP for Richmond and Barnes, will ask the Government to consider stopping a £28 million Commonwealth Development Corporation loan to Indonesia, where it is believed most of the pirate records are being made.

Mr Hanley, who is vice-chairman of the Conservative backbench committee on trade and industry, was addressing a conference of the International Federation of Phonogram and Videogram Producers, which has launched a campaign against bootleggers.

He told the federation, which represents more than 600 record companies that the Indonesian Government had made more than £300,000 by taxing the pirate records.

He will also ask Mr Paul Channon, the Minister for trade and industry, to consider imposing sanctions on a £20 million Commonwealth loan to Thailand, where, he said, music bootleggers were operating openly.

The only way that we can begin to tackle the problem is to get the Government to put pressure on the guilty countries.

"Singapore has been cleaned up. Now it's the turn of Indonesia and Thailand," Mr Hanley said.

Jockey misses wife's funeral

Leading figures from the racing world attended the funeral yesterday of Richard Linley's wife, Beverley, 28, who was killed in a car crash, but the jockey himself was too ill to join them because of injuries suffered in the accident.

Doctors advised the National Hunt jockey, aged 30, not to attend the ceremony at East Pennard, Somerset, but he was taken by ambulance from Yeovil General Hospital to the town's crematorium.

Book a Spanish holiday and stay at UK hotels

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Horizon Travel, which claims to be the third largest British package holidays company, yesterday brought out an expanded programme of budget-priced holidays under its Broadway label, throwing in the incentive of free six night stays in more than 100 United Kingdom hotels.

By buying the cheapest Spanish holiday on offer of £49 for a week in the Balearics, a United Kingdom hotel break worth up to £300 could be secured. Under the hotels scheme, taking in properties

from family hotels to four-star establishments around the country, including Northern Ireland, accommodation is free but breakfast and dinner have to be taken and paid for as does travel to the hotel.

Even if the hotels option, which can be broken up into two short breaks during the year, is fully taken up on all foreign holidays sold there should be sufficient accommodation available to cope, Mr Michael Knowles, Broadway's managing director, said.

Watching TV 'favourite male pastime'

By Robin Young

The single most popular leisure activity among British men is sitting home watching television.

According to a survey published this week, almost a fifth said that one of their hobbies was watching television. Another group, almost as large, said that they would like to go out more, but were pleased they could not afford it.

The next largest groups were so involved in their sports or hobbies that their families might feel neglected and neglected. The research was undertaken by McCormick-Publics, the advertising agency.

Fewer than 10 per cent of respondents described themselves as family men. Most were middle-aged and liked to cook an occasional meal, but

even among that small group only half undertook household chores.

Half the married men questioned claimed to have washed up once in the preceding week; one in three said that they had cooked a meal or used a vacuum cleaner; but only one in ten said that they had washed clothes or ironed.

McCormick-Publics say that the modern man who shares the chores and child-rearing with his liberated female partner is a figure of glossy magazine columnists' imagination. The most common domestic task was shopping. More than 40 per cent of married men claimed to shop in large supermarkets at least once a week, and more than one

in three said that they had shopped for the main grocery items the preceding week.

The survey detects exceptionally high unemployment among those aged under 25, and predicts that youth markets such as records and fashion will suffer as a result. More than a third of AB respondents by socio-economic grouping had disposable income of less than £600 a month, while 14 per cent of C2s had more. Almost half the C2s said that they owned a video recorder.

Half the men watching recorded television programmes habitually used the fast-forward button every time they came to a commercial break, the survey says.

1787 wine fetches top price

By Geraldine Norman

Sale Room Correspondent

A bottle of 1787 Chateau Lafite bearing the initials of Thomas Jefferson, later President of the United States, was sold at Christie's yesterday for a record £105,000 to Christopher Forbes, the third son of Malcolm Forbes, proprietor of the *Forbes Magazine*, the American business journal.



The highest price previously paid at auction for a single bottle of wine was \$38,000 (£25,000) according to Christie's. That was the price paid in October 1984 in Dallas, Texas, for a jeroboam of 1870 Monton-Rothschild.

Mr Forbes bought the 1787 bottle for the magazine's collection of presidential documents and ephemera and said that the wine would not be drunk.

He hoped to reach New York and place the bottle on Thomas Jefferson's dining table at the Forbes headquarters in time for an evening opening of an exhibition of Victorian paintings and Christmas decorations.

The table is on loan to Forbes from the Maryland Historical Society and was made in New York for Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello in Virginia.



On the table are two letters from Jefferson, one to a woman friend sending her six bottles of wine to settle her stomach, and another to the chief of the Seneca Indians warning them against spirits.

Mr Forbes said that he expected to be drinking a rather younger Lafite to celebrate the purchase.

The bottle was sent for sale by Mr Hardy Rodenstock, a German wine collector who acquired 13 bottles of Jefferson's wine recently from an unknown source in Paris.

He has consumed two and a third is to be opened at Monticello in 1987.

As wine, the 1787 vintage is an unknown quantity (Robin Young writes).

Though Lafite first appeared in a Christie catalogue in 1788, the 1787 has never been sold before, the earliest recorded vintage of Lafite sold at auction being the 1802.

Chateau Lafite has no remaining stocks of any wines as old as the 1787.

The level of wine in the bottle is exceptionally high for the age, the wine coming only half an inch below the original cork.

Jefferson visited the Bordeaux vineyards in 1787. In collectors' eyes the year is attractive because it was the year the United States constitution, largely drafted by Jefferson, was signed.

Sale room, page 18

Jail urged for failure to report accidents

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Magistrates' Association has called for penalties of imprisonment for the road traffic offences of failure to stop or failure to report an accident.

In its response to a consultation paper published last July by a review body on road traffic law, the association says that statutory penalties for those offences are inadequate.

"Occasionally the driver of a motor vehicle hits another vehicle, cyclist or pedestrian and causes death or injury and drives on without stopping or reporting the accident," it says.

"The courts should have power to impose imprisonment for such an offence where imprisonment is the only appropriate punishment."

Soviet baby goes home after heart operation

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

The boy, aged 10 months, who earlier this year had little hope of survival, is expected to return to Britain for further treatment in three or four years.

In the meantime, delicate surgery performed by doctors at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, should enable him to lead a near-normal life.

Doctors narrowed an artery from Yuri's heart to his lungs to prevent irreparable damage. Further surgery is needed to repair a hole in his heart.

The boy was brought to Britain under reciprocal health agreement between Britain and the Soviet Union. It had previously been suspended, but doctors hope Yuri's case will prompt more co-operation between the two countries.

Speaking through an interpreter his mother, Mrs Tatiana Sobol, yesterday expressed her gratitude to staff at Great Ormond Street.

She added: "I have the highest regard for the British people. Everyone has been so nice and I have made lots of friends."

Yuri returned to Moscow with a suitcase full of toys, books and games from well-wishers and staff at the hospital.

The association also calls for imprisonment for refusal to disclose a driver's identity. In London, particularly, it is becoming increasingly common for the owner of a car involved in serious offences to refuse to disclose the driver's identity, it says.

The offence, under section 168 of the Road Traffic Act, 1972, carries a fine of £400, but courts do not have power to impose an order of endorsement or disqualification.

"The association would like to see a statutory penalty for section 168 to be the same as for the offence committed by the driver. The existing penalty acts as an encouragement to an owner/driver not to admit he was the driver."

The study of road traffic law, being chaired by Dr Peter North, principal of Jesus College, and a former Law Commissioner, proposes a range of reforms, including confiscation of cars used by motorists who commit serious traffic offences.

The magistrates say that they favour a new power of confiscation, "particularly where a person persistently used his vehicle to drive while disqualified".

Man accused of blackmail

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

Edward Crozier, nephew of Mrs Julia Morley, the Miss World organizer, was accused at Marlborough St Magistrates' Court in London yesterday of blackmailing her husband, Eric, for £20,000.

Mr Crozier, aged 35, of Lawrie Park Road, Sydenham, south-east London, a former personal assistant to the Morleys, was remanded on £2,000 bail until January 7.

High life, low life

smoky Greek Street pub, turf- and vodka-loving Jeffrey Bernard scrawls his notorious Low Life column.

"Armand Hammer is a billionaire, an art collector, a friend of Prince Charles, an intimate of Gorbachev, and the greatest name-dropper and social climber in the world. Oh, I almost forgot. He is also an author."

"In order to publicise his great work, 'The Works of Armand Hammer', he went on the 'Johnny Carson Show', a programme watched by millions who cannot read, which some cynics say is the majority of the American public."

"The Hammer was a hit, name-dropping a king per second and convincing even poor little old me that he must be the greatest man since that other big lasagna, Lee Iacocca."

That's Taki taking off again, as regular readers of The Spectator will recognise. The playboy scourge of New York puncturing the egos of the famous in his column High Life.

Meanwhile, 3000 miles away in a

that 'Bone People' had first been published by a feminist collective, and a New Zealand one to boot, I grabbed all the 5-1 I could get.

"Then when I saw the author on television slumped behind a typewriter wearing man-repellent clothes, I knew I was looking at a racing certainty."

"That her mother gave her the typewriter some years ago is one of the most shocking cases of child abuse I have ever come across."

"I wonder if she realises just how lucky she was to get the Booker Prize..."

High Life and Low Life in The Spectator every Friday - no wonder the famous and the infamous hold their breath until they get their copy.

How about you?

PARLIAMENT DECEMBER 5 1985

EEC summit

Unesco decision

Home Office questions

PM cannot envisage United States of Europe

EUROPE

The conclusions of the European Council summit in Luxembourg on completing the common market and reducing the burden of regulations would be of long-term benefit to British firms selling goods and services in the European Community, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons.

She said completion of the Community's internal market had been an important United Kingdom objective for a long time, with the strong support of British industry and business.

The UK's position and the position of the Commons were properly protected on such vital questions as frontier controls, relations to terrorism, crime, drugs and immigration from outside the Community, and on essential controls in the field of health, for example of food, for example of drugs.

The United Kingdom had reserved its position on the voting arrangements in a proposed new treaty article on working conditions.

We insist (she said) that unanimity be preserved in view of the risks that this article might be

used to impose unfair burdens on our small and medium-sized business.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said there was widespread feeling that yet again the summit had evaded the obligation of members effectively to tackle unemployment in Europe and promote Europe's role in international affairs.

She said to the House (he continued) on her return from the Milan summit in July, "I see nothing before us that would require amendment to the Treaty," why is she now performing a U-turn and agreeing to procedures for amending the treaty as well as conceding the national right of veto in important areas?

In Luxembourg did the Prime Minister bother to pursue reform of the common agricultural policy which not only outrage British people but continue to seriously distort Community funding? Did she raise the question of the huge gap between the social fund payments?

Why does the Prime Minister continue to parade the idea of European foreign policy cooperation when she ignores the views of our partners in the EEC on the Falklands, South Africa, and today's unanimous plea for us to remain in Unesco?

Mrs Thatcher: We had a debate on economic matters and considered a substantial report by the Cange mission which will be considered in more detail by the Financial Council.

Most of the things that have been done now could have been achieved without any amendment. Many of the others which to go by treaty

amendment, I was not one of those but if they wish to do that, they are fully entitled to do so. All our interests are protected. The treaty is not an obstacle to reform of the CAP.

On foreign policy cooperation, yes I expect there will continue to be differences but we will try to work together as much as possible. I remind him of the support we got from the Community when the Falklands campaign was beginning for which we were profoundly grateful.

Mr Roy Jenkins (Glasgow Hillhead, SDP) asked if there was a significant advance towards majority voting.

Mrs Thatcher: It would be a significant advance over the internal market. But it became clear that the countries using the most rhetoric were those who put reservations on majority voting. There was a big gap between rhetoric and what they were prepared to agree to in practice.

Mr Edward Taylor (Southend East, C) said France had banned all imports of lamb. The majority of countries could have a protectionist regime and there was nothing Britain could do about it.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) asked if there was a long-term objective of a United States of Europe as the overwhelming majority of British people would reject this.

Mrs Thatcher: I do not believe even in the concept of a United States of Europe. Nor do I believe it would ever be obtainable. So I am with Mr Benn on that particular matter.

Mr Robert Jackson (Wantage, C) asked if the Luxembourg compromise still stood and how majority voting procedures would operate in future.

Mrs Thatcher said the Luxembourg compromise would still be applied provided there was a really significant national interest.

Mr Eric Deakin (Walthamstow, Lab) asked if the obligations of the Community would be extended by amendments to the treaty.

Mrs Thatcher replied that where there was an application for a new accession to the Community, the Assembly could stop it by withholding consent. Also, where a new association with a third world country was considered, the Assembly could stop it.

She expected there would be more consultations with the Assembly in future before decisions were taken.

Other countries (she added) have an enormous gap between their rhetoric about what they do and what they do in practice. Part of our task the whole time has been to diminish their expectations and draw them down from the clouds to practical matters.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Fyfe (Tiverton, C) will she inform the Commission and the Council that she will not place before the House any motion to satisfy the Luxembourg agreement until the French are complying with the basic elements of the original treaty in allowing the free movement of agricultural products?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not think it is the law for the Commission to take to the European Court. Some matters, particularly the internal market, would be helpful for the Commission to settle.

Mr Anthony Meyer (North West Chwyd, C) is this modest move threatened by the possibility of one of the signatories applying the veto?

Mrs Thatcher: If Italy and Denmark maintain their general reservation it could not be passed by such a sovereign Parliament. Italy had said it wanted to know

the Assembly's view and Denmark had certain constitutional problems which might be resolvable.

Mr Anthony Nelson (Chichester, C) asked about the possibility of joining the European monetary system.

Mrs Thatcher: I have stated, and it remains our policy, that we will join the EMS when we believe it is the appropriate time. We do not believe it is so at the moment.

Mr Alex Carlisle (Montgomery, L) said France had ignored the Community by imposing a ban on sheepmeat imports.

Mrs Thatcher: I said the Minister of Agriculture (Mr Michael Jopling) would take the matter up.

Other countries (she added) have an enormous gap between their rhetoric about what they do and what they do in practice. Part of our task the whole time has been to diminish their expectations and draw them down from the clouds to practical matters.

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Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) How much did the summit cost? How much did it add to the £4,726 million net the British taxpayer has had to find to the last 10 years of British membership?

These are questions people ask in Bolsover, not all the globe-trotters we have heard from the Prime Minister. It is a strange state of affairs that here we have a Prime Minister who constantly tells the rest of the British nation that there is no going to be any meetings at No 10 with beer and sandwiches, but the moment there is a summit with banqueting, junketing and the claret, and even though it is a national day of celebration, she gets on the first plane.

Mrs Thatcher: Would he like to visit his most distinguished constituents in Bolsover? This Government is in favour of two councils, instead of three, a year.

Mr Hurd: I have stated, and it remains our policy, that we will join the EMS when we believe it is the appropriate time. We do not believe it is so at the moment.

Mr Alex Carlisle (Montgomery, L) said France had ignored the Community by imposing a ban on sheepmeat imports.

Mrs Thatcher: I said the Minister of Agriculture (Mr Michael Jopling) would take the matter up.

Other countries (she added) have an enormous gap between their rhetoric about what they do and what they do in practice. Part of our task the whole time has been to diminish their expectations and draw them down from the clouds to practical matters.

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Minister defends decision on the Okehampton bypass

ENVIRONMENT

It would be wrong and unfair to the people of Okehampton and others affected if the House rejected the Okehampton Bypass (Confirmation of Orders) Bill in the mistaken belief that a northern route could be completed in less than nine years.

Lord Hailsham (Conservative), Secretary of State for Transport, said in opening the report stage in the Lords. The House should allow this measure to pass.

He said the Government thought that a southern bypass was right for Okehampton. The new road was a key element in the national road programme and a major plank in regional development. Without it, west Devon and Cornwall would not be linked properly to the national road network.

It is a balanced decision we have had to take (he went on), but it is the environment which tips the balance. The impact on the landscape would be greater in the north than in the south.

Every effort had been made to have this matter fully debated and the correct procedure was followed. Many people who had spoken to him about this had been concerned that a precedent might be set for other roads or developments in national parks.

On roads he could give a categorical assurance that it would not be used in that way. The process of public inquiry and decision did not allow the facts of one case to be justly ignored.

No-one disputed that it would be possible for a southern route to be completed within three years of Parliament approving it. It took on average 15 years to plan and build a national road project. Putting out the stops, it might be possible to build a northern route in nine years.

On the face of it, nine years was a long time. The whole concept of a northern route would be contested with the same vigour as had been deployed against the southern route. Nine years was a minimum realistic time for a northern route.

We are convinced (he continued) that the southern route is right. We do not believe that a northern route would be a reasonable alternative to the southern route.

Lord Mollison (C), who moved an amendment that the House decline to proceed with the Bill because it contravened assurances given during passage of the Statutory Orders (Special Procedure) Bill 1984, said strongly of the view that the Government's decision to adopt the southern route was wrong.

Mr Ridley (he said) has persuaded his Cabinet colleagues to damage a decision which has been made by a parliamentary majority based on the recommendations of a joint select committee of Parliament on a

making representations in mitigation cases.

Mr Biffen, responding to Mr Kinnock's amendment, the Opposition said the House Secretary hoped to moderate on the wider immigration issue.

Mr Ivor Stansfield (Oxford, C) said Mr Short must have known that her allegation that Mr Waddington had passed confidential correspondence to her was untrue.

Mr Short's secretary was told that morning by the Home Office that the minister had nothing whatsoever to do with it. Would Mr Biffen consider how the rights and good name of an MP could be protected against accusation of this kind?

Mr Biffen said that Mr Waddington's letter was sent to Mr Short in good faith and he was sure it would be received in good faith.

Mr Short told the House on Wednesday that there had been an argument on for some time between Mr Waddington and a number of Labour MPs since Mr Waddington claimed the MPs had been abusing their powers in

responsibilities. Will Mr Hurd ensure that the Government give every support in any reasonable request for equipment.

Mr Hurd: I agree. It is not only protection of the police force, it is the protection of peaceful citizens. It is well. Nobody would feel it was right for the police to be exposed to the kind of attack they endured at Tottenham without having some resources to think of protection.

Mr Andrew Bennett (Dorset and Reddish, Lab) The vast majority of people in Greater Manchester do not want plastic bullets used. They are concerned at the loss of life and the harm to the police.

Mr Mark Carlisle (Warrington, South, C) The chief constable in the area is responsible for the protection of the lives of his force in carrying out their duties and

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Reform proposals have fallen short

UNESCO

The United Kingdom is to leave the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on December 31 this year, Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, told the Commons amid Labour protests.

During Prime Minister's question time earlier, Mrs Thatcher said the decision was "taken in British interests."

Mr Raison said Unesco had become hopelessly polarized and had been used to attack those very values it was designed to uphold. There had been inefficient management and excessive spending at the Paris headquarters.

The results on Britain's proposals for reform had fallen well short of what Britain believed could justify continued British membership. So the notice to leave given last December was not a surprise.

We will not (he said) be cutting back on international cooperation covered by Unesco. The money saved from our contribution will be used through the aid programme to further educational, scientific and other activities designed to benefit developing countries, particularly in the Commonwealth.

In this way there would be more support for education, mostly through the British Council.

The Government planned to maintain observer status in Unesco. Mr George Foulkes, an Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said the statement was shabby and disgraceful.

It is a kick in the teeth, the third world (he said) and another step on the road to Britain's isolation in the world.

All Commonwealth countries, Britain's EEC partners, the Foreign Affairs Select Committee and the UK Commission for Unesco and many MPs in all parts of the House had urged the Government to stay in Unesco.

The decision showed that the Government's so called consultation had been a farce, and a sham.

The withdrawal was yet another pathetic capitulation to United States pressure.

The next Labour government would restore Britain to its rightful place in Unesco.

Mr Raison denied this was a kick in the teeth for the third world. Of course there had been strong opinions that Britain should remain in Unesco but there had been strong opinions in favour of coming out, too, including those from distinguished scholars.

Throughout the whole operation Britain had never been asked to put a stop to leaving Unesco by the United States government.

Mr Anthony Kershaw (Stroud, C), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, had many distinguished people had been in favour of withdrawal and they could not all be called "nasty, narrow-minded nationalists".

Mr Raison said his committee had hoped it would have been possible to reform Unesco.

Mr Raison replied that among those in favour of withdrawal was Lord Annan. He had read the report of the select committee and given close attention to it. There had been some reform of Unesco but it had not been sufficient.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) The reasons Mr Raison has given today will not be believed outside the ranks of his own supporters because it is known that the United States wished the British Government to leave Unesco and reinforces the hostility of Conservative MPs to international organizations.

Britain had been one of the prime founders of Unesco and had played an integral part in making it meaningful and building peace in the minds of mankind.

Mr Raison said Britain had been under no pressure from the United States to leave Unesco. This decision in no way meant the Government was opposed to other international organizations or to the United Nations.

Mr Robert Rhodes James (Cambridge, C) As a former senior official in the UN it is a very sad occasion for me, not because the Government's decision is wrong but because it is right because Unesco has become a disgrace to international organizations.

I look forward to when we can rejoin a truly United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Mr Raison: Mr Rhodes James speaks with considerable authority and I suggest people listen to him. As to the future, of course if things change radically we would have another think about it.

Mr Mark Carlisle (Warrington South, C) said the announcement would be bitterly regretted throughout the Commonwealth and could be misunderstood and seen as Britain turning its back on the developing world.

Mr Raison said the measures he had announced would be of direct practical value to Commonwealth countries. He accepted there had been opposition from the Commonwealth but it was notable it was not raised in Nassau.

Mr Guy Barnett (Greenwich, Lab) said withdrawal would put a stop to some of the most valuable work being done by Unesco.

Mr Raison: I believe much of the

Storm still blows over real life drama behind sinking of the Marques

From Tim Jones, Plymouth

To millions of television viewers she was the Beagle, charting treacherous seas to enable Charles Darwin to unravel the mysteries of evolution. To countless others, she became the rugged heroine of *The Onedin Line*, cutting through the Atlantic to secure the fortune of a British dynasty. But when she died during a brief and savage squall off Bermuda with a loss of 19 lives she bore her real name, the Marques.

Yesterday the inquiry into the loss of the British-registered barque ended in Plymouth after eight stormy weeks. But for the relatives and the nine survivors, the ordeal has merely been postponed.

For the inquiry, scheduled originally to last for five weeks, has taken much longer than expected, and it will begin again, probably in London, in April. Eventually, it must determine whether the ship which looked so grand was a leaky and unworthy old tub or a worthy and well-maintained durable warrior.

The relatives have heard already that before the final tragedy, enacted far away from television cameras and their accompanying safety vessels, the Marques was said to have nearly sunk three times.

In the courtroom atmosphere of a main function room of the hotel where the inquiry has been held, a saga as salty and controversial as any fictional plot has been unfolding.

Allegations of incompetence, admissions of rule-breaking, revelations of forgery, denials of negligence, tales of sabotage and stories of guns to repel real-life pirates have all been recorded to add height to the piles of documents placed before the barristers.

Witnesses have not even agreed on the stability of condition of the 72-year-old, 85-ton vessel before she took part in the Tall Ships Race which was to have taken her from Bermuda to Halifax, Nova Scotia, in July last year.

According to Mr Rupert Massey, acting for the parents of one of the victims, "gross and reckless errors" contributed to the disaster. He claimed the owners of the ship, the race organisers and the Department of Transport which certified the vessel, may all have been guilty of negligence.

The inquiry is far more than a formal exercise to determine why the Marques sank, according to survivors, in less than two minutes. The findings, which are expected to make recommendations governing the future conduct of such races, will be scrutinized by lawyers acting on behalf of the victims, most of them young trainees who had paid for the adventure.

Four Britons were among the dead. They were: Mr Peter Messer-Bennett, aged 20, of Wadebridge, Cornwall; Mr Benjamin Bryant, aged 18, of Kentish Town, north-west London; Miss Gillian Shagbush, aged 24, of Chelsea, south-west London; and Mr Ian Brims, aged 48, a father of three from Hove, East Sussex.

Already, one American lawyer has filed a claim for \$55 million (£36.7 million) on behalf of one victim. Other lawyers are waiting in the wings to seek damages from the American and British Sailing Training Associations which jointly organized the race. One of them alleged the addition of a third mast and poop deck for her Beagle role made her unstable.

The atmosphere in the inquiry has not been helped by the animosity between Mr Robin Cecil-Wright, former co-owner of the ship, and Mr Mark Litchfield, who gained a declaration in the High Court that he legally became the sole owner of the Marques and her sister ship, the Inca, in May 1983.

It has been established beyond doubt that Mr Stuart Finlay, aged 42, captain of the Marques, who died in the disaster with his wife and young son, used a forged certificate to enable him to take command.

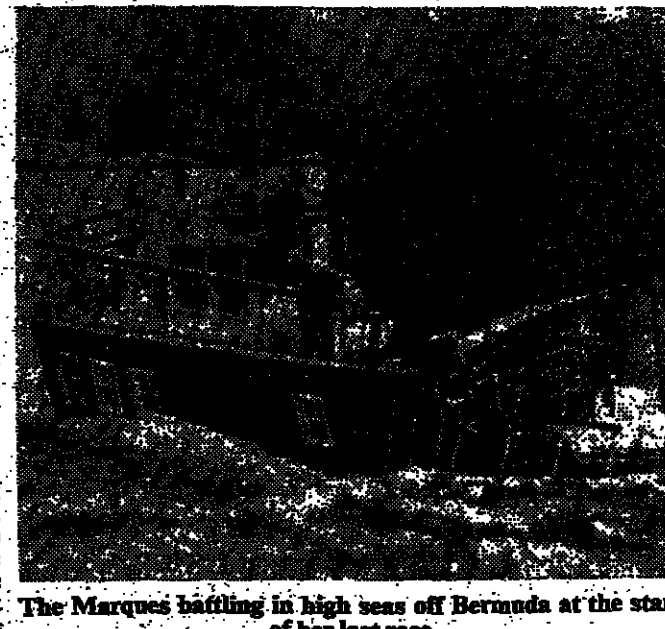
Only the inquiry can decide whether the Marques should have sunk but how she did is clear. She left Bermuda on the afternoon of July 2, buffeting gently into a force four to five wind.

Mr John Seaton, aged 22, of Windermere, Cumbria, said she was handling beautifully. "At 0400 (July 3) I took over the helm. The wind dropped somewhat but after a few minutes increased violently and instantly. It was completely unexpected."

"I spun the wheel to starboard about two turns and heard the third mate order 'bear away' (steer out of wind). The boat heeled over completely so that the mast was in water. She lay like this for a few seconds. The bow of the ship began to sink immediately. In my opinion the total time from the squall striking to the ship disappearing was no more than 45 seconds."

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The Marques heeling in high seas off Bermuda at the start of her last race

Survey of Lords finds 355 are directors

By Gregory Neale

A third of the working members of the House of Lords are directors of companies, according to a survey published today by the trade union-funded Labour Research Department.

They are represented on the boards of 107 of the 1,000 companies listed in *The Times* 1,000, as well as banks and insurance companies, and every Fleet Street newspaper.

Unlike the Commons, which publishes details of MPs' directorships and consultancies, the Lords has no register. The Labour Research survey found that of the just under 1,000 peers entitled and able to attend the House - in principle if not in practice - 355 are company directors, holding 1,755 directorships.

More than half are Conservatives: there are 31 Labour peers holding directorships while the Liberals have 17 and the SDP 16.

The survey describes Lord McFadden of Kelvinside as the busiest of the peers represented in the top 100 industrial companies.

In the City, peers sit on the main and subsidiary boards of all the "Big Four" clearing banks.

Proportionally, women peers fare even less well in the boardroom than in the House. Of 64 women peers, only seven are company directors.

Labour Research, vol 74, no 12, December 1985 (78 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8HF, 95p, plus 15p p&p).



A pupil from Burgh Primary School at Rutherglen, Glasgow, displaying one of Britain's first exercise books with advertisements which will help to raise money for Strathclyde (Photograph: Tom Kidd).

Ministers rebuffed church over inner-city report

By Mark Jackson of the Times Educational Supplement

The Government was offered a chance to defend its policies in the Archbishop of Canterbury's report on the inner cities. It is claimed today.

The disclosure, in today's *Times Educational Supplement*, comes after a week of sustained attacks on the report by ministers who say its harsh criticism of their treatment of the urban poor is biased and misinformed.

Mr John Burn, a Tyneside head teacher who served on the Archbishop's commission of inquiry, said that its chairman, Sir Richard O'Brien, offered to discuss its findings with ministers and to include the government's response in the final version of the report.

The offer was made in letters to Mr John Gummer, an Anglican, who was then Conservative Party chairman, and a member of the government, who declined it.

Sir Richard confirms that he made the approaches, but says that he had not himself intended to make the matter public. He also confirms that the report's authors are to consider inviting Sir Keith Joseph, Sec. retary of State for Education and Science, to intervene in their argument with his colleagues.

Sir Richard says that the report's critics have misunderstood its central objective, which is "to set the agenda for a national debate on priorities and the urgent moral dilemmas they raise".

He believes that Sir Keith with his known concern for moral values, is the senior minister most likely to be prepared to confront the issues and treat them seriously.

A Bill which is likely to provoke a good deal of parliamentary sound and fury began its legislative course this week. The Shops Bill received its second reading in the House of Lords on Monday.

The removal of restrictions on Sunday trading is not one of those measures on which the economic future of the country depends. But it could have quite an impact on its social life, and the fear that it may be already causing the political temperature to rise.

The Conservative Party managers at Central Office are becoming anxious and are devoting a surprising amount of time to the subject. Quite a number of Tory MPs are upset. The letters are pouring in, both to Central Office and to the House of Commons, and it is well known that the sure way to a politician's heart is through his postbag.

The memories of Conservative politicians naturally revert to the cautionary tale of resale price maintenance. According to political folklore, Mr Edward Heath's insistence upon removing the right of manufacturers to determine the price at which their goods should be retailed, thereby encouraging greater price competition in the shops, was one of the principal reasons for the narrow defeat of Sir Alec Douglas-Home government by a mere four seats in the general election of 1964.

The public seemed to like the Bill, but fewer votes are swung by mild approval than by outraged indignation. Small shopkeepers, the backbone of many a Conservative constituency association, protested volubly. So, as so often in politics, more notice was taken of the passions of a minority than of the majority's inclination.

The bill was passed, but only after damaging rebellions from the Conservative backbenches. On one amendment the Government's majority was reduced to one.

How much this really hurt Conservative electoral fortunes may be questioned. The issue was of little consequence in the election campaign. But a myth can be potent without being accurate.

Pressure from the churches

In this case, the indirect were probably more important than the direct consequences. For the first half of 1986, Conservative energies were diverted, and Conservative morale sapped by the running battle. At the end of it all, Conservatives were left wondering whether the prize had been worth the cost.

That is the outcome that many Conservatives fear now with Sunday trading. They do not doubt that the Bill will be



Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

passed in due course, even if it may be substantially amended. But they wonder if they may pay too high a price for something that is not vital to them.

How far, though, are the conditions the same? Those likely to be upset by the Shops Bill are shopkeepers, shop assistants, the churches and others who are particularly concerned to preserve social traditions. So far most of the correspondence received by Conservative MPs has, so they believe, been orchestrated by the churches, with the exception of the Roman Catholic Church.

Perhaps more will be heard from small shopkeepers as the controversy develops. But they do not appear to be so united in their opposition, and as yet they have been less vociferous than last time.

More uneasy than outraged

The letters which seem to be having most effect on Conservative MPs are not so much expressions of commercial interest as of concern for the social fabric of church, family and the British Sunday.

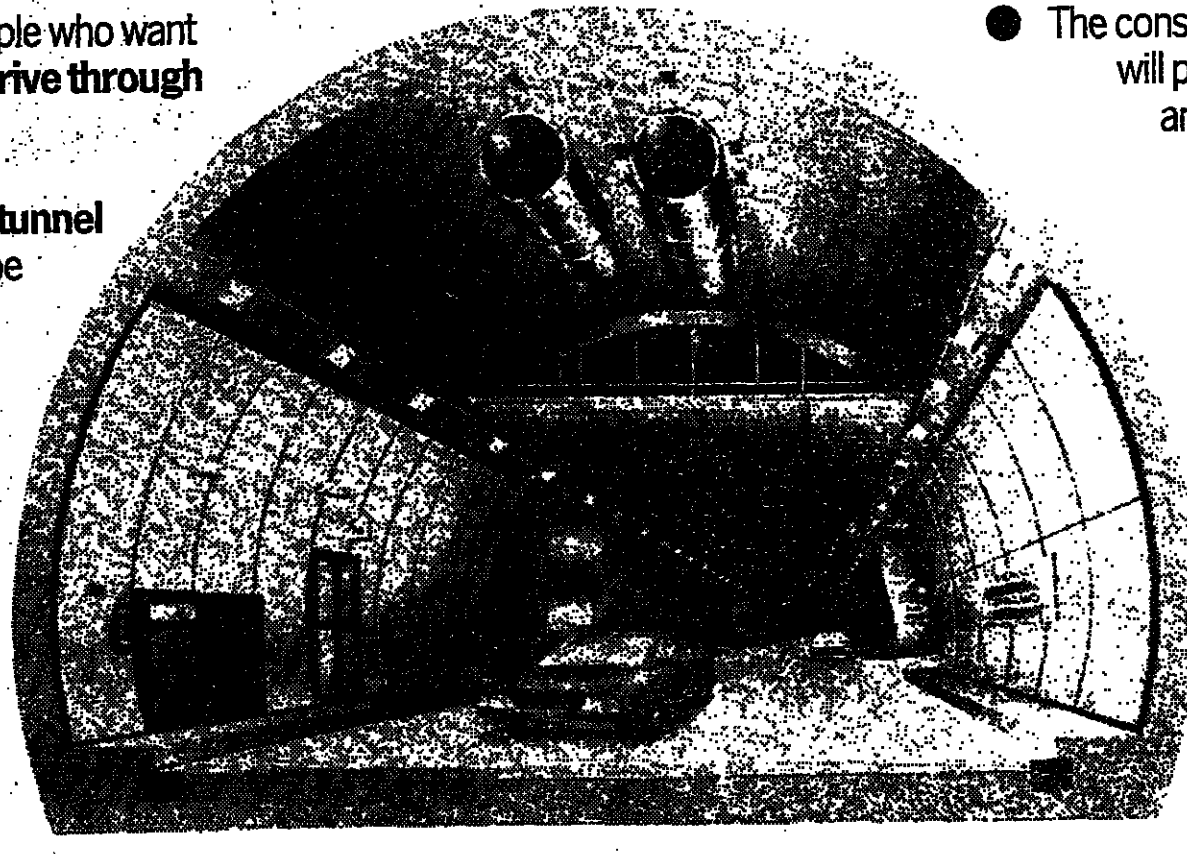
There may be something like 50 potential Conservative rebels in the House of Commons. But I suspect that many of them are uneasy rather than outraged. Such rebels ought to be easier to keep under control.

There is one other key difference between now and 1964. Feelings were ruffled then and the party's attention distracted just when it should have been concentrating on the run-up to the election. There should be time now for Conservatives to recover from whatever squabbles they may have before they face the electorate.

But this is likely to provide the parliamentary fracas of the session, and much will depend on the skill of the party managers. If they are not careful we shall be hearing much about another self-inflicted wound.

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Militants pour scorn on Pretoria's property concession to blacks

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South Africa yesterday announced legislation which will be introduced early next year to allow all blacks who are South African citizens or legal immigrants to buy freehold property in designated urban areas outside the reserves or tribal "homelands".

The concession was immediately denounced as minimal and cosmetic by militant black groups, but it represents a potentially far-reaching departure from apartheid practice, and would go some way to restoring a right taken away from blacks by the Land Act of 1913.

Nearly 80 per cent of South Africa's 23 million blacks would be eligible in theory to acquire freehold property under the plan, unveiled yesterday by Mr Chris Heunis, Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning.

The only blacks whose eligibility was still in question were the five million or so

Anti-embargo plea

Mrs Helen Suzman, the veteran anti-apartheid South African MP, yesterday urged Britain and other Western countries not to impose sanctions or other punitive economic measures against Pretoria (Nicholas Ashford writes).

Arguing that the modest reforms which of an expansion of the economy, she said she was "firmly of the belief that anything that retards economic expansion in South Africa is counter-productive to black interests".

Delivering the Harold Macmillan lecture to Young Conservatives in London last night, she said sanctions would also seriously damage the economies of neighbouring black states and greatly increase unemployment there.

The Times. Their South African citizenship was still being negotiated.

For some years blacks have been able to buy property on a 99-year leasehold basis, but only those with permits to be in urban areas outside the homelands. They probably account for only a sixth of the black population. This restriction will no longer apply under the new scheme.

There will still be serious restraints on where blacks can buy property. The Group Areas Act, which enforces racially separate residential areas, will remain in force. Blacks could not move into white areas and could buy houses only in designated black townships.

The number of blacks who can afford to buy their own houses will also be small. The Government controls the provision of land for black housing, of which, as a result of deliberate policy, there is a huge shortage. According to Mr Heunis, no more than 360,000 houses and/or plots are available for sale.



President Reagan at the White House with his newly-named National Security Adviser, Vice-Admiral John Poindexter.

Nicaraguan 'boycott' draws fire

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogota

Nicaragua was bitterly attacked after apparently boycotting a meeting between the foreign ministers of the Contadora group countries and their colleagues from Central America, which subsequently broke up in chaos at Cartagena, Colombia.

The Honduran and Salvadoran representatives accused Nicaragua of showing "contempt" for the Central American peace initiative pursued by the Contadora group formed by Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela, and now backed by the newly formed Contadora support group comprising Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay.

The informal meeting on Wednesday had been convened on the final day of a three-day extraordinary meeting in Cartagena of the Organization of American States which had already been irritated by the absence of the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, Father Miguel D'Escoto. Instead, the Sandinista Government sent a junior foreign ministry official.

Later Nicaragua upgraded its representation when Señora Astorga, Deputy Foreign Minister, suddenly flew to Cartagena. But she then absented herself from the meeting between the Contadora group and the Central American foreign ministers.

Unesco crisis Britain ignores calls to stay

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain's decision to leave Unesco was taken in defiance of the wishes of all of its principal allies, except the United States, which withdrew last year.

Members of the European Community, collectively and individually, had urged Britain to rescind its decision to leave the 160-member body at the end of this year. So did the Commonwealth countries, which wrote two joint letters to the Government calling on Britain to stay in an organization of which it had been the principal founding father.

Only hours before Mr Timothy W. Wigg, Minister for Overseas Development, announced the decision to withdraw, Japan, which had also been considering pulling out, urged Britain to pursue its attempts to reform the organization from within.

The message, delivered in London by the Japanese Ambassador, said Britain had been playing a leading role in the reform of Unesco and Japan wanted to continue working together to that end.

Japan is the second largest contributor to the United Nations budget with \$422 million last year. Japan's supply of personnel to the organization, however, falls well below its quota.

Five of the countries had said they were considering leaving the organization if the kind of reforms Britain had been demanding were not carried out.

However, West Germany, Japan, Holland, Sweden and Singapore said they were satisfied by the progress achieved during last month's national conference of Unesco in Sofia.

The decision to pull out also taken in defiance of the recommendations by the Commons foreign affairs committee and the United Kingdom national committee on Unesco.

The decision to withdraw means that the organization will lose Britain's budgetary contribution of around £6.4 million. Taken with the loss of the American contribution, which amounted to 25 per cent of the organization's budget, it is certain that cuts will have to be made in Unesco's staff.

It is likely there will be a reduction in the number of Britons working for Unesco, although they will not automatically lose their jobs.

The withdrawal decision seems certain to cause some damage to Britain's international reputation.

Police accused of faking riot evidence

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

South African police fired tear gas into the grounds of a Cape Town church where Dr Allan Boesak, a prominent opponent of the Government, was addressing a prayer meeting, and were then seen to scatter stones in the road outside the church, claiming later that they had been thrown at a police armoured vehicle.

Dr Boesak, a leading mixed race Coloured churchman, said

several members of his church council were willing to swear they had seen the incident on Wednesday night in the suburb of Bellville, which was also witnessed by a reporter on the Cape Times. "The police behaved like pigs," he said. "The police were unable yesterday to comment on the stone-throwing allegation. They said tear gas had been used when members of a crowd

which had gathered outside the church refused to disperse. Meanwhile, Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of the jailed African National Congress leader, Mr Nelson Mandela, is expected to be discharged "in the next few days" from a Johannesburg clinic, according to her lawyer. A statement said she had "not been feeling too well recently," but gave no more details.

Opposition set to close ranks on Marcos

Manila - A Philippine opposition leader, warning of military interference in February's presidential poll, yesterday said a single opposition candidate would be announced on Sunday to challenge President Marcos (Keith Dalton writes).

Former Senator Salvador Laurel said the choice would be between himself and Mrs Corason Aquino, widow of the murdered opposition leader.

After his sixth private meeting with Mrs Aquino, Mr Laurel said chances were "bright" that they would agree to a joint ticket.

Clergy head for clash on apartheid sanctions

Harare - The World Council of Churches, meeting in an emergency session to consider a strategy against apartheid, appeared set yesterday for a clash over the issue of sanctions (Jan Raath writes).

The guerrilla movements, which have observer delegations at the conference, said they were preparing to push the conference to adopt a policy of mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa.

Earlier in the day, representatives of the churches in Canada and Germany said they favoured "selective" sanctions.

Archbishop Edward Scott, the primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, who is also the Canadian representative on the Commonwealth "eminent persons" group for dialogue in South Africa, said that total sanctions would be interpreted within South Africa as a vindictive measure.

Bishop Martin Krube, head of West Berlin's evangelical churches, said his church was against "a total boycott" and instead advocated "carefully targeted and selected economic pressure".

Easy time predicted for Howe in Spain

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, arrived here yesterday for what the Spanish had billed as a new round in the negotiations to recover sovereignty over Gibraltar, but which the British view, as an opportunity generally to cement a promising new phase in relations.

Underlining that approach, Sir Geoffrey went first to call on King Juan Carlos, who is due to

make a state visit to London in the spring the first by a reigning Spanish monarch for 80 years.

Sir Geoffrey's official 24-hour visit to Madrid is the first by a British Foreign Secretary for many years and Señora Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, the Spanish Foreign Minister, told Parliament yesterday it represented "a gesture of friendship which we must respect".

These points together with the King's forthcoming visit to Britain, are likely to give Sir Geoffrey a relatively easy time in Madrid, even though he offers no binding replies and only a broad discussion of Madrid's two proposals to resolve the Gibraltar sovereignty issue: a condominium or a lease-back arrangement. The Spanish authorities reckon time is now on their side.

Waite stays hopeful after rebuff by Kuwait

Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, remains cautiously optimistic about winning freedom for four US hostages in Lebanon, despite Kuwait's refusal to grant him a visa, his spokesman said yesterday.

Officials in Kuwait said they had refused the visa because they saw no link between the hostages in Lebanon and 17 Muslims, jailed for bombings in Kuwait, which the Beirut kidnappers want released.

Pinochet kills democracy talk

Osorno, Chile (AFP) - President Pinochet said Chile's military regime will continue "much beyond 1989" when his term ends.

Earlier, General Fernando Matthei, the Air Force commander and ruling junta member, surprised a press conference by saying "it already is time" to engage in discussions with the opposition National Accord alliance seeking the restoration of democracy soon.

Chess rematch

Moscow (Reuters) - Anatoly Karpov, who lost his world chess title last month, challenged his successor Gary Kasparov to a rematch, Tass reported. The International Chess Federation set the rematch for February 10-April 21.

Family split

Warsaw (AP) - A Polish court has suspended the parental rights of a couple whose two teenage boys defected to Sweden because they refused to sign an extradition request sent to the Swedish Government, sources said here.

Falldin ousted

Stockholm (Reuters) - Mr Thorbjörn Falldin, the former Swedish Prime Minister, said he had been fired as leader of the opposition Centre Party after its heavy losses in September's general election.

Flights hit

Madrid (AP) - Spain's Iberia airline cancelled 27 flights scheduled for today - six European and 21 domestic - because of a strike called by mechanics.

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East stays cool to West's offer on troop cutback

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

A new Western proposal for ending the deadlock in the mutual reduction of troops in Central Europe (MBFR) talks was handed to the East yesterday at the 413th plenary session in Vienna.

The proposal, for which British diplomats were eager to claim credit, is believed to have originated largely in the Foreign Office. There was, one British diplomat said, "no reason why we should not now be able to reach an agreement with the East".

Initial response from the East, however, was cool. One Warsaw Pact diplomat accused the West of having made the proposal "unworkable through excessively inflated an unrealistic verification measures". There were no grounds for optimism in the proposal.

The proposal sets aside the difficult question of how many troops the Warsaw Pact has in Central Europe. The East's public estimates have always been considered to be at least 200,000 fewer than Western intelligence experts believe.

The West's proposal involves initial reductions of 5,000 troops in Central Europe and tighter verification measures so that all forces pass through "permanent and permanently manned entry and exit points".

After the initial troop reductions, there would be a three-year freeze to enable each side to establish with confidence the levels of conventional forces remaining.

Optimism at WEU

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The Western European Union, the only European body authorized to discuss defence issues, wound up its assembly's four-day session in Paris yesterday, apparently in slightly better heart than when it began.

Members had earlier voiced their discontent over the failure of the seven member governments, including Britain, to follow up their promised relaunch of the organization, as

laid out in the Rome Declaration of October 1984.

However, M Jean-Marie Caro, the French president of the assembly, said yesterday that he was "partly satisfied" by the reassurances and promises given by ministers during the meeting on the need to keep the assembly better informed about the WEU's Council of Ministers work.



Mrs Yelena Bonner (left) standing on a Florence balcony yesterday with Princess Irina Strozzi and her daughters Irina and Natalie. Mrs Bonner, wife of Dr Andrei Sakharov, also met the Italian Prime Minister, Signor Craxi.

Crusaders air their causes on synod fringe

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Vatican's special synod of bishops approached its last working day today accompanied by a series of fringe performances, including an attempt by a woman to celebrate Mass in St Peter's basilica and a proposal for an ecumenical council of all Christians in Bethlehem in the year 2000.

The suggestion for a council involving every Christian church and community came from Father Benedicto Revilla Torices, a Spanish missionary in Guatemala for the past 21 years.

His move is personal and has no part in the synod's official work, but he sees the synod as the best place from which to launch his idea.

There is also a widespread feeling that the next great step in ecumenism will have to come from some stimulus at the grassroots of all the churches and communities that want to see an end to division. This is why there is now a tendency to broaden the base of ecumenical effort.

Mrs Baby Burke, the American woman who on Wednesday blessed wine on an altar in St Peter's as a protest against the Vatican's refusal to permit women priests, has incurred the automatic penalty of interdict, according to Vatican sources. She can no longer receive the sacraments.

Two governments face delicate task after wild rumours laid to rest

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

The report of the McClelland Royal Commission, tabled in Canberra yesterday, is the final step in a process which had as its genesis the secrecy cloaking the British nuclear test programme in Australia and from which sprang a persistent stream of bizarre horror stories and rumours based on ignorance and fear.

From the start of the programme in 1952, concern and opposition grew among the population until it became a highly-charged political issue.

Simultaneously there started a spate of stories about the nature and effects of the tests, such as the account from servicemen about a bubble from a nuclear test bunker which they believed contained mentally defective "human guinea pigs".

Anxiety remained with many of the servicemen and civilians involved in the tests, but public interest faded until the issue was revived in 1980 with press reports which created the impetus for the Australian Government to appoint a Royal Commission.

The report should succeed in laying to rest many of the old fears. But having established that there were no "human

guinea pigs", no servicemen exposed deliberately to radiation, and having found no positive evidence that the tests had caused deaths, the report still had two substantial issues to address: compensation and the future of the contaminated range.

In effect it has made the Australian Government responsible for the first, and Britain for the second. Talks in coming weeks will start a delicate process to determine whether the two governments can establish common ground on British involvement in a clean-up.

The Commission clearly believes that the treatment of Aborigines throughout was scandalous - careless, when it was not clinically negligent - and there will be considerable domestic pressure on the

Government of Mr Bob Hawke to meet the recommendations for compensation.

The findings also show that the Commission believes the British attitude to Australia and its people was patronizing and secretive.

For his part, Mr Justice McClelland showed a sharpness verging on abrasiveness in dealing with British officialdom which some observers characterized as Anglophobic. In the closing stages he was involved in tense exchanges with Mr Robin Auld QC, representing the British Government.

The report was at least even-handed in its criticisms. The treatment of the Menzies Government is scathing and likely to provoke allegations in Australia that Mr Justice McClelland was motivated in part by political considerations.

Gathering storm that led to 120-day study

Oct. 1977 - After more than a decade of complacency, Australian officials ask Britain for data on tests involving highly toxic plutonium, which continues to contaminate the main test site of Maralinga in South Australia. The approach is said to reflect a tough new attitude in Canberra.

Oct. 1978 - Dr David Owen, then Labour Foreign Secretary, is asked whether Britain will remove the plutonium. A British technical team arrives to examine the site the same month.

Feb. 1979 - Britain agrees to retrieve the plutonium and to return it to Britain. Over the next two months more than 11 tonnes of material, consisting of about 500gm of plutonium particles encased in concrete, is airlifted. It later emerges that a comparatively large amount of plutonium remains scattered and buried at Maralinga.

Oct. 1980 - Reports appear in the Australian press claiming the tests had resulted in deaths. Over two years it is alleged that at least 50 people involved in the tests have died and that between 20 and 50 Aborigines perished after being enveloped in a "black mist" (later identified as having come from the first of the Totem series of tests in October, 1953).

Jan. 1983 - In response to a campaign for compensation by British test veterans, announces a study into about 12,000 servicemen and civilians involved in the tests. This investigation continues.

Dec. 1983 - Canberra studies find no evidence that the health of more than 15,000 Australians involved in the tests was affected, but reports persist of related deaths.

March 1984 - Mr David Alton, a Liberal MP, claims in *The Sunday Times* that declassified papers show that British servicemen were deliberately exposed during nuclear tests in order to assess the consequences. This gives rise to the assertion, later made on numer-

ous occasions, that soldiers were used as human guinea pigs.

(The relevant section of the document, a memo to the Armed Forces Chiefs from the Defence Research Policy Committee dated 20.5.53, said that the Army "must discover the detailed effects of various types of explosion on equip-

Inquiry team

Members of the Commission were: Mr Justice James McClelland, chief judge of the New South Wales Land and Environment Court, president; Mrs Jill Fitch, a health physicist at the South Australian Health Commission; Dr William Jones, lecturer in geography at the University of Newcastle, NSW, and an authority on Aboriginal affairs.

ment, stores and men with and without various types of protection". The British High Commission in Canberra denied the guinea-pig claim, and says it is based in a misinterpretation of the document).

May 1984 - Growing momentum for an Australian investigation is given impetus by the disclosure after almost 28 years that the second of the Mosaic series of tests yielded 60 kilotons, three times greater than Canberra had been told. An Australian ex-serviceman says the discovery on the range of an Aboriginal family, all dead, was concealed. Britain agrees to cooperate fully in any investigation.

July 1984 - Canberra announces the formation of a Royal Commission. The first hearing is held in Sydney on August 22. The British Government declines at first to be represented, but in November says it will appoint counsel. Sept 1985 - The Commission completes its public sessions. It sat for more than 120 days, including 41 in London.

Thousands exposed in US tests

Bikini atoll radiation was greater than believed

Washington (AP) - Thousands of US military personnel were exposed to greater radiation than previously thought when they took part in two open-air test explosions of atomic weapons in 1946 a Congressional study showed yesterday.

The study, released by Senator Alan Cranston, a Democrat, disputed a 1984 Pentagon study which said the military personnel were exposed only to low levels of radiation. The Veterans Administration, citing the Pentagon study, has refused to pay claims to the men.

Mr Cranston in releasing the 16-month-long investigation by the General Accounting Office, asked President Reagan to order the Defence Department to conduct an entirely new review. From the first US bomb test in New Mexico in July, 1945, until open-air tests were banned by a 1963 treaty, the United States set off 235 nuclear tests in Nevada and the southern Pacific Ocean.

About 220,000 military personnel took part in those tests, including 42,000 at two blasts in the lagoon at Bikini Atoll in July, 1946. Those two tests were known as Operation Crossroads. Of the 42,000, about 41 per cent, or 17,000, probably were hit with heavier doses of radiation than previously thought, said the study by the Congressional monitoring agency.

But because the field of nuclear radiation and its effects was so new, film badges, worn by only 15 per cent of the participants, were probably inaccurate. Many of the participants wore no protective gear, Mr Cranston noted.

The study found that the most serious risk was run by men who tried to decontaminate some of the 80 target ships stationed inside the atoll during the blast to see what would happen to them.

Mr Cranston noted that the report said a column of water a mile high and nearly half-a-mile wide threw large masses of highly radioactive water onto the decks and into the holds of the target ships, making them highly radioactive.

Water in the lagoon was still radioactive down to 8ft deep for up to two weeks after the blast but it was still used by nearly 2,000 Navy personnel daily to "scrape, scrub and wash the ships in an effort to get them down to acceptable radiological levels".

About 500 veterans who were part of Operation Crossroads have claimed injury, citing radiation exposure.

Hayden scorns NZ stand

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

A hardening of the differences in the alleged dispute, which has aligned Australia with the United States against New Zealand over the Lange Government's anti-nuclear policy emerged here on Wednesday.

In a statement reflecting growing Australian frustration, Mr Bill Hayden, the Foreign

Minister, said that Canberra opposed New Zealand's draft legislation to ban from its ports vessels with nuclear capability.

He was shown the draft law privately by Mr Geoffrey Palmer, the New Zealand deputy Prime Minister, after its approval by Wellington earlier in the week.

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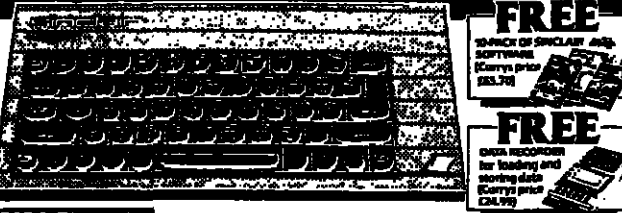


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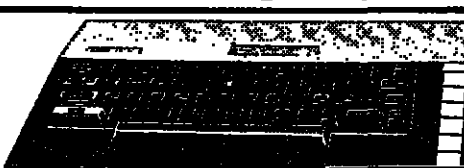


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محکمات الاصل

BRITISH NUCLEAR TESTS IN AUSTRALIA

Timing, siting and safety all under fire in report

The report finds, in summary, that the 12 major test devices detonated between 1952 and 1957 should not have been fired in the circumstances prevailing, and that the Vixen series of 12 minor tests between 1960 and 1962, involving plutonium, should never have been made at Maralinga.

Throughout the series of tests, it says, the regard for the safety of Aborigines and for the impact on them was inadequate, in some cases amounting to "ignorance, incompetence and cynicism".

In trying to assess the impact on the health of the Australian population, the report says that test policy on exposure to radiation and maximum permissible levels of radiation had been "reasonable and compatible with the international recommendations applicable at the time."

There had been some serious and some minor departures, however, and standards had been revised to the principle that any exposure might involve some risk.

The report says that an imprecise estimate could be made of the impact on the Australian population, but that it has chosen not to do so. A key section of the conclusions reads: "By reason of detonation of the major tests, and the deposition of fall-out across Australia, it is probable that cancers which would not otherwise have occurred have been caused in the Australian population."

The main repercussions in Australia are likely to concern the report's advocacy of compensation for Aborigines who lost the use of traditional lands as a result of the tests; its condemnation of the Menzies Government which is portrayed as complacent, if not cavalier, about the risks to the population; and the castigation of Sir Ernest Titterton, who headed the Australian scientific group monitoring the tests.

In its first conclusion, the Commission said it gained the overwhelming impression that "the original decision to lend Australia to the United Kingdom for the nuclear tests programme was taken by Prime Minister Menzies without reference to his Cabinet."

In a passage which will provide controversy in Australia, it states that: "In taking it upon himself to embrace British interests as being synonymous

with those of Australia, and to expose his country and his people to the risk of radioactive contamination, Menzies was merely acting according to his well-exposed Anglophile sentiments." Australia was entirely dependent initially on British scientists for information pertinent to its own security. The establishment of an Australian scientific body, the Atomic Weapons Tests Safety Committee (AWTSC), to monitor the tests was "an important, albeit tardy, step in providing the Australian Government with the opportunity to obtain independent scientific advice on safety aspects."

Sir Ernest Titterton, who headed the AWTSC, is singled out for severe criticism. A British-born physicist, he settled in Australia in 1950 and took the chair of nuclear physics at the Australian National University in Canberra.

The report concludes that "his background, the manner of his appointment (to the AWTSC) and his own view of his role as a member of a British and Australian team, hardly ensured the detached and independent approach to what ostensibly was his primary task - protection of the Australian public."

'Ignorance, incompetence and cynicism' marked concern for Aborigines

The report speaks of his "cavalier treatment of the truth throughout his testimony" and charges that he "played a political as well as a safety role. He was prepared to conceal information from the Australian Government and his fellow committee members if he believed (it) would suit the interests of the United Kingdom Government and the testing programme."

The Commission deals in detail with each major test series:

1. Operation Hurricane: "The Monte Bello Islands were not an appropriate place for atomic tests owing to the prevailing weather patterns. There was fall-out on the mainland (but it was) unlikely that it exceeded the no-risk level.

2. Operation Totem: "The Totem 1 test was fired under conditions that (a study) has shown would produce unacceptable levels of fall-out. Inadequate resources were allocated to guaranteeing the safety of Aborigines during the Totem tests."

"The Royal Commission believes that Aborigine people experienced radioactive fall-out from Totem 1 in the form of a black mist or cloud. This may have made some people temporarily ill. The Royal Commission does not have sufficient evidence to say whether or not it caused other illnesses or injuries."

3. Operation Mosaic: "The Monte Bello Islands were not a suitable site because the chances of obtaining suitable occasions to fire were too low. The Mosaic tests were conducted in a hurry under marginal meteorological conditions. The predictions were incorrect for both tests and parts of the clouds passed over the mainland of Australia."

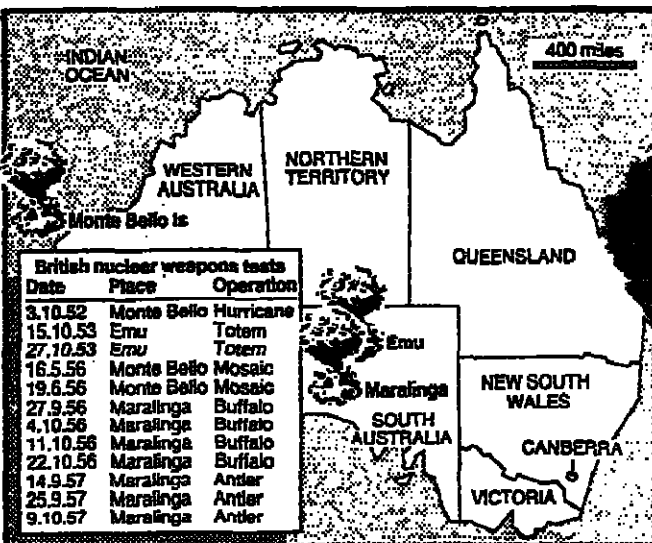
"The presence of Aborigines on the mainland near the island was not recognized. It was a major oversight that the question of acceptable dose levels for Aborigines was recognized as a problem at Maralinga but ignored in setting the fall-out criteria for the Mosaic tests."

"The precautions taken for the health and safety of the Servicemen at Mosaic were generally adequate."

4. Operation Buffalo: The report says that two of the tests were fired when the fall-out was predicted to violate firing conditions, another in conditions which did violate a weather criterion, and the fourth should not have been fired in conditions prevailing at the time.

Overall, the report says, "the attempts to ensure Aboriginal safety during the Buffalo series demonstrate ignorance, incompetence and cynicism on the part of those responsible for that safety. The inescapable conclusion is that if Aborigines were not injured or killed as a result of the explosions, this was a matter of luck rather than adequate organization, management and resources allocated to ensuring safety."

5. Operation Antler: This series, the report says, was "better planned, organized and documented than any that preceded it, but attention to Aboriginal safety was still inadequate and



How the tests came to Australia

Chronology of British nuclear tests in Australia:

Sept 16, 1950 - Clement Attlee, Prime Minister, writes to his Australian counterpart, Robert Menzies, saying Britain has little hope of access to US nuclear testing facilities and asking about possible use of Monte Bello Islands.

Sept 19 - Menzies: "We agree in principle."

Nov 9 - RAF starts Monte Bello reconnaissance.

March 26, 1961 - Attlee makes

formal request to test at Monte Bello.

May 10 - Menzies agrees.

Dec 27 - New Churchill Government calls off negotiations for US facilities and tells Menzies of decision to proceed at Monte Bello.

Oct 3, 1952 - First British device detonated in British frigate, HMS Plym.

Oct 15, 1953 - Totem 1 test leads to "black mist" which contaminated Aborigines. Lord Penney, British scientist in charge, admits later it should not have been fired in those conditions.

Aboriginal people continued to inhabit the prohibited zone for six years after the tests.

6. The minor tests: "The first and most obvious question... is why they were not conducted in the United Kingdom. The answer is found in the politics of radioactive contamination. In view of the long half-life of plutonium (24,000 years) the Vixen series should never have been conducted in Maralinga."

In dealing with clean-up operations already conducted at Maralinga, the report says: "Operation Brumby (the British clean-up exercise of April to July 1967) was based on wrong assumptions. It was planned in haste to meet political deadlines and, in some cases, the tasks undertaken made the ultimate clean-up of the range more difficult. The operation of ploughing and disc-harrowing (to disperse plutonium into the soil) was the wrong procedure."

There then follow conclusions about British involvement in the future of the range. A new clean-up should be carried out "to allow Aborigines access to the test sites without restriction".

Addressing the question, "Who should pay for the clean-up of Maralinga?" The report notes that an agreement signed by the British and Australian governments in 1968 releases Britain "from all liabilities and responsibilities" while a further agreement in 1979 states "there

is no question of the United Kingdom having further responsibility to repatriate waste from Maralinga."

Despite these releases, the report goes on: "In the opinion of the Royal Commission, it is clear that, at the time of the execution of both releases, matters now relevant were not in the contemplation of the parties."

"As a consequence, neither of the purported releases would

operate to excuse the US from a responsibility to eliminate the present problems. In the opinion of the Royal Commission, the UK remains liable for the total cost of rendering the contaminated areas safe without fences or patrols."

"The Royal Commission also believes there is an overwhelming moral obligation of the UK. It would, in the opinion of the Royal Commission, be grossly irresponsible of the UK

Government if it did not now accept that it has a continuing obligation."

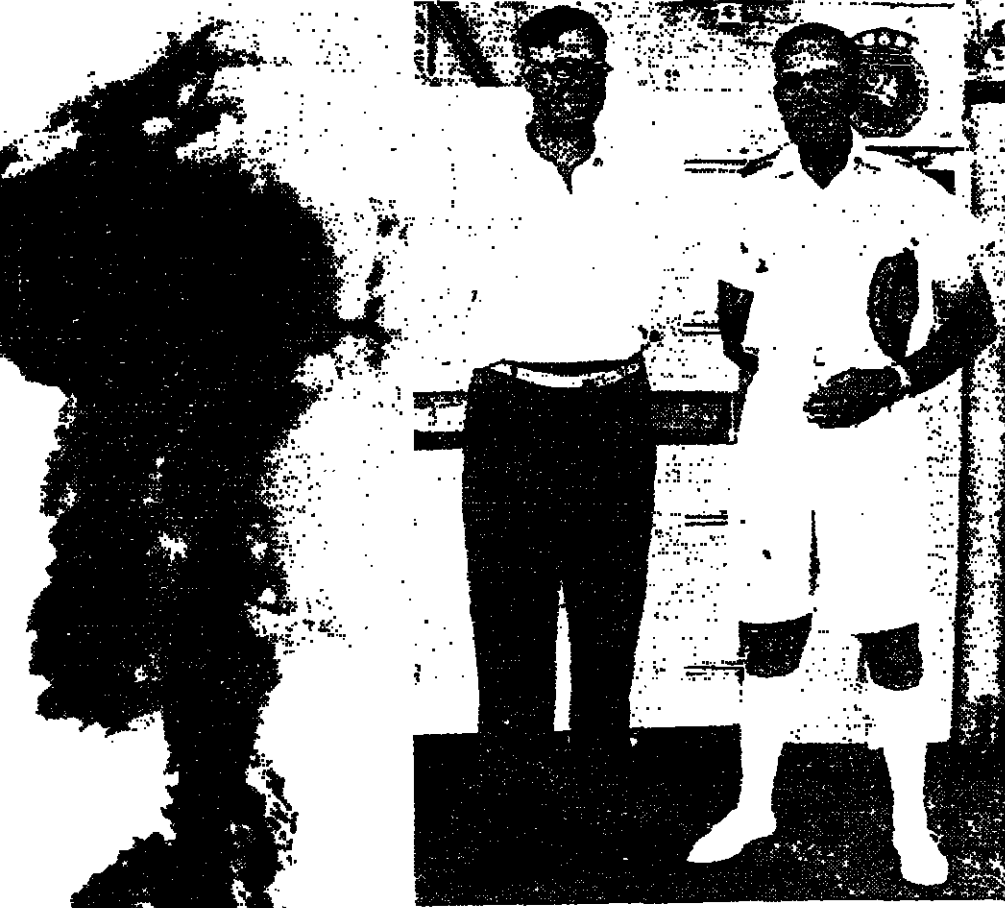
So far as the Aborigines are concerned, the report says that denial for 30 years of access to their lands "has contributed to their emotional, social and material distress and deprivation."

"It is appropriate and fair that the Aboriginal people be compensated. Effective compensation would enable them to

re-establish their links with the land."

Responsibility for this compensation, the report concludes, should be borne by the Australian Government.

The Commission also recommends the compilation of a national register of nuclear veterans, Aborigines and other persons who may have been exposed to the black mist or exposed to radiation at the tests."



Dr W G (later Lord) Penney and Rear Admiral A D Torlesse at the first Monte Bello test in 1952; at left, the first Maralinga explosion; and below, backs turned, British troops at the Monte Bello test.



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AIR CANADA 

Fabius challenge over Jaruzelski's visit shakes French politics

The unprecedented decision by M Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, to make public his disagreement with President Mitterrand over the controversial visit to Paris by General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, has sent shock waves through French politics.

Some observers have raised the possibility of an imminent resignation or dismissal of the Prime Minister. However, with less than 100 days to go before the critical General election next March such a move, by either side, is considered unlikely.

Others suggest that M Fabius has deliberately distanced himself from the President to preserve untarnished his image of champion of human rights, with an ever-attentive eye on his own political future. Those observers point out that it is not the first time that M Fabius has clashed with M Mitterrand, though it is the first time he has made that disagreement public.

Yet other observers remark that M Mitterrand, the most machiavellian of French presidents during the Fifth Republic, rarely makes a move whose consequences he has not worked out fully in advance.

According to their theory,

both the controversial visit and the "row" were planned deliberately to demonstrate to the Opposition the powers of the President to act alone in the field of foreign policy, regardless of the views of the Prime Minister of the day.

However, the conflict between the President and his former "favourite son" seems too serious and too important for it simply to have been intended as a lesson in "cohabitation" for the Opposition. The Opposition insists on its intention to apply its programme and policies in full after winning power next March, despite the continuing presence of President Mitterrand, who will still have two years of his seven-year mandate left to serve.

Asked during an official visit to the French overseas department of Martinique in the Caribbean about a possible crisis between the Elysee Palace and Matignon (the Prime Minister's office), President Mitterrand, as inscrutable as ever, simply referred his interlocutor to the beauties of the surrounding countryside.

M Fabius also refused yesterday to comment further on the statement he had made in Parliament on Wednesday, in

which he declared that he was "troubled" by General Jaruzelski's visit to Paris and revealed that he had asked the President for an explanation. It appears that M Fabius was neither informed nor consulted about the visit.

Although many leading Socialists are known to share M Fabius's distaste for the visit, and for the secretive way in which it was organized, they are shocked that he should have chosen publicly to dissociate himself from the President at this time. The Socialists have no need of public divisions so soon before the elections.

Asked about the M Fabius's reaction, M Raymond Barre, Prime Minister under President Giscard d'Estaing when the latter paid his much-criticized visit to Warsaw in 1980 to see the Soviet leader, Mr Leonid Brezhnev, after the invasion of Afghanistan, said that if he had been "troubled" by that visit, he would have resigned.

He certainly would not have gone before the National Assembly to announce that he was disturbed by what the President was doing, he added: "Under the Fifth Republic, the President and the Prime Minister form a couple."



Traders back in action at Singapore stock exchange yesterday when it reopened after an unprecedented three-day suspension following the failure of a plan to rescue the giant Pan-Electric company. Report page 19.

Brandt in Warsaw to boost détente

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Herr Willy Brandt, chairman of the West German Social Democratic Party (SPD), flies to Poland today in a controversial contribution to the thaw between East and West.

Solidarity, the banned trade union, has already condemned the visit by the former Chancellor, who is here to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Polish-West German Treaty.

This accord was the beginning of Herr Brandt's *Ostpolitik* - the policy of conciliation with East Europe - and both the SPD and the Polish Government clearly hope for a second, enhanced round of this détente.

The Polish opposition, however, is suspicious and, to counter the view that the SPD is more interested in stability than freedom, secret talks have been resumed to arrange a meeting between the two Nobel Prize winners. Here Brandt and Mr Lech Walesa, West German

Muldoon pursues campaign to oust party leader

From Richard Long, Wellington

Sir Robert Muldoon, the former Prime Minister of New Zealand, last night made it clear that he was not giving up his campaign to dislodge his successor, Mr Jim McLay, from the leadership of the opposition National Party.

Immediately after a party caucus in which Mr McLay held on to his leadership when an attempt to oust him failed to materialize, Sir Robert called on party branches to urge MPs to drop the leader.

Sir Robert said he would be astonished if the party caucus did not move to change the leadership before Christmas. Earlier Mr McLay had just told reporters the caucus had consolidated his position.

Mr McLay said he had asked three times in the caucus if anyone wished to discuss his leadership, but no MPs came forward.

Delhi goes in fear after gas claims first victim

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

The gas leak in Delhi has claimed one life and two people are in a serious condition. Twenty-three others are being treated.

More victims of the leak, which happened on Wednesday, were taken to hospital on the second day of the incident. More than 300 have been tested and discharged.

Preliminary investigations have shown many instances of negligence at the plant, police said. Clouds of sulphur trioxide from the Shriram fertilizer plant in Delhi after a tank collapsed

have dispersed, but the panic has not.

In Parliament, MPs including those of the ruling Congress, demanded action against the owners of the plant and strict precautions to prevent recurrence of such an incident.

The Delhi Administration has announced that it is considering the shifting of all gas-producing plants from the congested areas of the old city.

● Victim named: Officials named the dead man as Charanjit Singh, a 50-year-old lawyer (AP reports).

Homeless come in from the city cold

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Police in New York are rounding up the city's homeless street people to save them from freezing to death.

Under an order from Mayor Edward Koch, the city declares a cold-weather emergency when the temperature falls to 32°F and police are empowered to pick up the homeless and take them to city shelters.

As the temperature fell to freezing for the first time this winter, police rounded up more than 150 street dwellers in railway stations and other favourite haunts, officers talked quietly to the people huddled on benches and in doorways and escorted them to buses.

The shelters, which provide the homeless with a shower and a bed, are under pressure. More than 8,000 people are being accommodated in them, the biggest number since the 1930s.

In addition to the street people, there are 4,000 homeless families - 14,500 people - living in welfare hotels, their keep paid for by the city.

The mayor's round-up order has had the effect of persuading many street people to report voluntarily to shelters as the weather becomes more bitter, leaving the police to pick up a relatively small number.

Hundreds of homeless people in New York are also in need of psychiatric care. In the 1960s the mental institutions in New York state, some badly overcrowded, released large numbers of patients after it was argued that many were confined unnecessarily.

It was thought they could be looked after at a local level and that their illnesses could be treated with drugs. But many of them are not looked after and, unsupervised, do not take their medicine.

Expenses spree

Tokyo (Reuters) - Japanese companies spent a record 3,620 billion yen (£12 billion) last year on business entertainment expenses, meaning the average company spend 223 million yen a year, the National Tax Agency said.

Station bombs

Swedish police arrested a man accused of planting three home-made bombs under Stockholm's central railway station in an attempt to extort money from the state railway company.

Fighting in Uganda

Garrisons attacked as talks founder

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

The Uganda Government has said National Resistance Army guerrillas have launched strong attacks on garrisons in Masaka and Mbarara, in the south-west, which have been under siege for weeks.

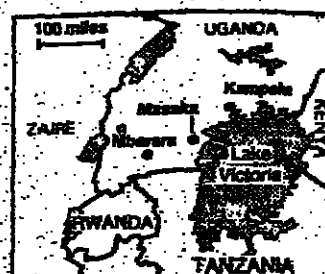
The attacks come after increasingly acrimonious exchanges between the military government and the NRA, which appear to have dashed hopes of a peace agreement.

In the last few days, the NRA leader, Mr Yoweri Museveni, has accused the government of launching a new offensive against his troops, which control south-west Uganda. The rebel onslaught appears to be a form of retaliation.

Each side blames the other for the lack of progress towards an agreement. Only a few days ago there were hopes that a deal would be signed after months of on-and-off negotiation, but the latest developments have dashed those.

On Wednesday the ruling Military Council said it has obtained documents showing that Mr Museveni was planning to assassinate the head of state, General Tito Okello, and other leaders of the Government. The council also accused the NRA of deliberately raising new issues in the peace talks in order to prevent them from succeeding.

Mr Museveni said he was insisting that the deal barred those with a record of atrocities and human rights violations from participating in the new



government. But he said the Military Council was not prepared to accept his conditions.

Radio Uganda, controlled by the Military Council, said the NRA raised new conditions in the peace talks when everything had been settled. The new points, apparently the insistence on barring people with criminal records from the Government, surfaced only this week, the radio said.

It accused the NRA of deliberately dragging out the peace talks to ensure they did not succeed.

A Ugandan newspaper, *The Financial Times*, reported yesterday that a plane carrying arms from Libya destined for the NRA had been hijacked and seized by members of another group, the Former Uganda National Army composed of ex-members of Idi Amin's Army who had recently returned from exile in Sudan and Zaire.

Mr Museveni denies receiving Libyan arms and says all his weapons have been seized from the Uganda Army.

Moderate tipped to win Guatemala election

From John Carlin, Mexico City

A moderate Christian Democrat is widely expected to win Guatemala's presidential election on Sunday, ending 15 years of military rule.

A first round of voting last month, with 11 candidates in the field, failed to produce an outright winner. The candidates who came first and second, Señor Vinicio Cerezo, Christian Democrat, and Señor Jorge Carpio, of the centre-right Union of the National Centre, will fight it out on Sunday.

Señor Cerezo is a more charismatic and well-known figure than his rival, a newspaper owner who has risen quickly to political prominence since forming his party two years ago.

Señor Carpio, who has

received enthusiastic support from the business community, owes much of his success to his unashamed self-promotion in the pages of the national daily he owns.

Few people, however, appear to doubt the victor will be Señor Cerezo, much respected as the leader of a traditional party long known for its brave, if measured, opposition to Guatemala's brutal military regimes.

● Foreigners expelled: Guatemala has deported four Americans, three Frenchmen and a Canadian for "illicit activities" (Reuters reports).

Press reports said they belonged to the Peace Brigades, an international human rights organization.

RESEARCH

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THE ARTS I

Cinema

Different dimensions

Back to the Future (PG)
Empire, Leicester Square

Nineteen Nineteen (15)
Curzon, Mayfair

A Zed & Two Noughts (18)
Lumiere

Legend (PG)
Leicester Square Theatre

In the twenty weeks since it opened in the United States, *Back to the Future* has grossed something in the region of \$150 million. If there is a single, simple explanation of this phenomenon — as of the success of past pictures from the Steven Spielberg stable — it is probably that it satisfies, far better than most films of the day, the unchanging universal yearning to be told a story.

The essential ingredients are current Hollywood commonplaces: a teenager, a time machine and a nutty professor. But the script by Bob Gale and the director Robert Zemeckis (no doubt overseen by Spielberg as producer) has an ingenuity, simplicity, symmetry and optimism worthy of Hans Andersen, as well as a happy ending that is as satisfying as it is convincing.

Marty McFly is accidentally transported back thirty years in Dr Brown's time machine, a converted DeLorean car. He meets his future parents as teenagers, and recognizes in them the flaws of character that will in time produce the miserable and messy people (father a wimp, mother a lush) he has left behind in 1985.

The film mines a rich vein of light satire in the contrasts between the little town then and now. Today's bleak and devastated centre was in 1955 a thriving community of little shops, with a gas station where eager

valets rushed out to polish the customers' cars. What is now a porno-house was then a movie theatre advertising Ronald Reagan and Barbara Stanwyck in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. In 1955 Marty's story that he is a visitor from the future loses all credibility the moment he answers the test question, who is the US President in 1985?

The time jokes are played deftly and lightly; and Lea Thompson and Crispin Glover as Marty's parents, aided by remarkable makeup, skilfully portray the child as father to the man. Michael J. Fox is bright and likeable, convincing as a 17-year-old, and excellent when he introduces rock-and-roll to a stunned high school audience only just getting over doo wop.

Nineteen Nineteen is a more serious approach to the same theme: how the paths of age are hidden from us in youth. In this case the film starts from a very theoretical premise, but is transformed by the performances of Paul Scofield and Maria Schell into a romantic, rewarding, human story. The director Hugh Brody and writer Michael Ignatieff took as their starting point two well-known Freudian case histories; and then, giving the people names and identities, speculated how their stories might have continued after the sessions in Bergasse.

Now old people, the patients meet in Vienna in 1970, and confide their stories. The Viennese Sophie, after the trauma of a lesbian love affair and attempted suicide, was sent off by her rich Jewish family to New York and an unsuccessful marriage. After 1938, the arrival of the Nazis and the extermination of her family, it was too late to return to Austria. Alexander, an aristocratic Russian émigré of 1917, stayed on in Vienna, working as a waiter, and in his own way experienced the Nazi tragedy.

As they relate their stories they expose unhealed psychological scars (Alexander credits Freud with saying "There are no cures... only the possibility of converting hysterical misery into every-day unhappiness"). Meanwhile, with unemphatic skill and suppleness the film glides in and out of the past, showing the younger

Sophie and Alexander in the consulting room, where Freud's voice (Frank Finlay) is heard, though he is never seen.

The dialogue in Alexander's dimly lit apartment, whose very scent of mothballs and lemon tea you seem to detect, is the strong centre of the film. Maria Schell has matured into a fine actress, and her teaming up with Scofield is triumphant. Scofield's Alexander is a dignified, distinguished old gentleman still given to petulant outbursts that expose a lifetime of sexual confusion.

Peter Greenaway declares in his introduction to the published script of *A Zed & Two Noughts* (Faber, £4.95) that "Cinema is far too rich and capable a medium to be merely left to the storytellers", although characters in his films generally have a vast liking for anecdote. While Hugh Brody approaches *Nineteen Nineteen* with the perceptions of a trained philosopher and experienced anthropologist, Greenaway has the cranky curiosity of a 17th-century amateur savant.

The attraction of Greenaway's films does not lie in intellectual games and conundrums in themselves, so much as in an irrepressible whimsical humour (there is more than a touch of Lewis Carroll) and an ability to make each independent image as compelling as a good painting. In *A Zed & Two Noughts* he assembles a voluptuous woman who has lost a leg in a car crash, the sinister surgeon Van Meergeren, a pair of separated Siamese twins longing to be rejoined, and the crazed or crooked personnel of a continental zoo, including the resident tart, and various lions, zebras, swans, prawns and a bewildered rhino.

The human characters are in one way or another obsessed. Van Meergeren is after the woman's other leg; the twins, simultaneously widowed, are obsessed by the process of decay, which provides the opportunity for some impressive time-lapse photography; the prostitute yearns for a zebra, and so on.

Both *Nineteen Nineteen* and *A Zed & Two Noughts* are co-productions of the British Film Institute Production Division, and Film Four Inter-



Return to the time-warp: Michael J. Fox and the mad professor

national, and do credit to the innovative approach of both bodies.

Ridley Scott's *Legend*, rather like his earlier *Alien* and *Blade Runner*, is a triumph of the art of production design (Asheton Gorton), make-up experts and cinematographer. It also shows that these arts count for very little without an adequate scenario to justify them. The screenplay by William Hjortsberg describes the conflict between two handsome unicorns. It borrows prodigally from everything from *Jack the Giant Killer* to *Peter Pan* and the MGM *Midsummer Night's Dream*, yet remains a collection of incidents rather than a story, with narrative progression and suspense.

David Robinson

Television

Old chums and beastly buildings

Lucinda Lambton, whose last television venture "Temples of Convenience", was a study of lavatories, restored some quirky lustre to 40 Minutes (BBC 2) with a programme on buildings somehow connected with animals.

Apart from affording us scanty glimpses of temples to pigs, pyramids to poultry and a tomb to a tame 20-year-old trout, *Animal Crackers* gave its presenter a jolly excuse to see some old chums, pose diaphanously in crumbling follies and tell often irrelevant anecdotes — about the Earl of Lonsdale, for instance, who kept the head of his dead mistress in a glass box in his hall.

Sometimes these stories lacked a provenance. "All this might be a little bit of rubbish", she admitted after describing how ladies of the Court used to paddle about in bull's gore to strengthen their ankles. By concluding the programme with "a story without any point at all", the producer Jonathan Gill wisely acknowledged his collaboration with Lady Lucinda's

engaging dippiness — a dippiness that well matched the material but did mean it was quite a feat for her to complete a sentence without giggling.

Brazil, Brazil (BBC 2), Peter Riding's first-rate series on that eternal country of the future, examined how in paying off the world's largest foreign debt — \$103 billion — Brazil runs the risk of creating an even more problematic social debt at home (whereby food is grown for export to Japan rather than to feed the country's 30 million hungry people).

The most memorable image was of a man whose arm had been severed by a cane shredder. To claim a disabled pension, he said, he had to lose two arms.

Jim Norton's crisp, confident commentary was effectively at odds with commercial-like footage showing Brazil's technological achievements. Electro-norte's hydro-electric dam especially underlined this "progress without development" — a plundering of the country's

heartlands with little regard for the local population or atmosphere.

On Angel's Wings (Channel 4) followed another dramatic attempt to tame nature on that continent. After much huffing and puffing two British hang-gliders and a free-fall parachutist eventually plummeted from Venezuela's Angel Falls — at three times higher than the Empire State Building, the world's highest waterfall. Their slow lazy spiral, under dark cliffs and into damp green forest was exhilarating to watch (and judiciously filmed by Colin Clarke).

While the experience stunned them into understandable hyperbole, the breathless statement "the Angel Falls has been conquered" seemed marginally over the top. Nature remains the real wonder, and Devil Mountain continued its slumber like an elephant scammed on by mice.

Nicholas Shakespeare

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A ZED & TWO NOUGHTS 15

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THE ARTS II

London first nights: Irving Wardle reviews Shaffer – Paul Griffiths reviews Mozart

Spy of history

Yonadab
Olivier

Yonadab, nephew of King David, gets two brief mentions in the Book of Samuel: first in planning the rape of David's daughter Tamar by her brother Amnon; then hastening back from Baalhazor to reassure the King that all his sons, except Amnon, have survived the feast of vengeance.

So far as Yonadab is concerned, the positive cancels out the negative; and all Samuel adds to the blank portrait is to call him "a very subtle man". Taking up the cryptic place of evidence, together with Dan Jacobson's novel *The Rape of Tamar*, Peter Shaffer has set out to supply Yonadab with a motive and a human face which could have given rise to the bare Old Testament inscription.

Even in Samuel's version, Yonadab has a family likeness to other "Shaffer" characters: small men on the sidelines, watching spectacles of ecstasy, genius and power, which fascinate them and which lie utterly beyond their own scope. The theatrical advantage of such men is that they share out common mediocrity and thus can mediate between the events and the spectator, unbound by place and time. Yonadab, like Salieri, is a spy of history, able to speak directly to us because he is of small account in David's court and – crucially – because he is no believer in Jehovah.

The play is sub-titled "The Watcher". Yonadab is a self-proclaimed voyeur, an ignoble role which he duly enacts by stealing back to observe the rape of Tamar.

Also, like Salieri, and the Doctor in *Equus*, Yonadab has a vision of what life ought to be and he looks to David's sons to bring it into existence. "Princes make dreams happen," he says, echoing Musset's *Lorenzaccio*, "or what is their use." He dreams of a millennium of gentleness and love, and looks to the surviving alternative faiths to bring it about. In particular, he is haunted by the Egyptian and Phoenician myths of incestuous divinity, and when Amnon confesses his passion for Tamar, Yonadab assists him for his own reasons.

The play takes its shape from a birth and death of faith. Yonadab hatches his plot with Amnon in a spirit of cynical experiment, and it ends with the disastrous sexual passage described by Samuel. But when Tamar seeks refuge with David's beloved Absalom, and tenderness develops between them, it seems that incest may now be leading to divinity. Yonadab's scepticism gives way to awe: "I had invented most of this myself," he says, "and now stood weeping before the hope of it."

No sooner is it born, however, than the dream goes up in smoke, with Tamar's emergence as a rabbinically ferocious leader in her own right.

This plot takes Shaffer far beyond filling in Biblical gaps; and, in particular, the death of Absalom goes for very little as it is presented without preparation and with no reference to his attempt to seize power. But the real objection to the play, is that it lays claim to ultimate questions of man's place in the universe, and reduces them simply to a theatrical structure.

Peter Hall's production takes its cue from the idea of spying. Design, by John Bury, consists of a series of curtained off sections on a right-angle platform, suggesting the endless recesses of a labyrinthine Jerusalem, the tabernacle, and a curtain of time separating Davidic society from the spy confiding to us from the edge of the stage. Alan Bates's Yonadab, eyes zipping craftily from side to side, staccato delivery terminating in twisted grimaces, is not without echoes of Tony Hancock in his early anachron-



Alan Bates

istic court appearances. The success of the performance is the power of hope and despair in which it builds.

His transformation is matched by long-range development elsewhere in the cast: notably, the decline of Leigh Lawson's Amnon into a blubbing wreck, appealing to him as "Yonnie", and Wendy Morgan's Tamar, a spoilt child

changing to a warrior queen. David, the great manipulator, stimulates Patrick Stewart to a rhapsodic performance in which political craft is indistinguishable from intense paternal love; which, in the case of Anthony Head's seraphic Absalom, is easy to credit. The court rituals, and the slaying of Amnon, are spectacles of the utmost virtuosity.

Dark night of Eros

Don Giovanni
Coliseum

This may not be the first *Don Giovanni* to be clothed uniformly in black and white, but it perhaps breaks some records in taking place so completely at night. The stage is dominated by what the producer Jonathan Miller on this page yesterday described as three "towers", although the effect is of corners of anonymous buildings, or giant book ends, revolving to provide a variety of half-evoked interiors and street scenes. They are lit, by Robert Bryan, as harshly as we had been led to believe, the cold white light coming straight from overhead as if from a spectacularly fierce full moon (if one that switches on and off rather brutally). But behind all around there is darkness. This is the night of Eros let loose, and the only people who thrive in it are Don Giovanni and, a shade more surprisingly but very aptly, Zerlina.

The others come from the daytime of moral respectability and decent social behaviour, and the figures they cut in this blackness teeter on the edge of caricature. Don Ottavio is a stuffy bore with the air of a Georgian clergyman; he leaves Zerlina and Masetto, then stops and returns to lecture them with "Il mio tesoro". And Maldwyn Davies's willingness to lose sweetness for plain speaking here is typical of the whole cast's readiness to follow Dr Miller's cues to character even when these act against vocal beauty.

Felicity Lott's Donna Elvira is another case in point. Dr Miller responds acutely to the tone of fussy propriety that is announced right there in the orchestral introduction to her first entry: she is conveyed in a chair. And when she steps

out, we see a lady well past her prime, with rouged cheeks and a slightly ridiculous mantilla: she might be a duenna.

Josephine Barstow both looks and sounds more comfortable in her personification of Donna Anna. This is a woman again beyond her first youth, but one who has learned nothing from experience. Her most characteristic vocal gesture is to move into a pianissimo as if she were about to fall into a swoon, and when she has to be more positive, one hears through the attack the plangent hopelessness.

Nor does this Leporello have much fun. Richard Van Allan's grave tone must be an invitation to make the man dour, but Dr Miller makes him thoroughly embittered as well, except for one moment of voyeur-like glee. He thus lacks any kind of moral kernel that could be the ground for his pleas to his master to change his ways, but he provides the occasion for a performance of dark wit from Mr Van Allan.

Don Giovanni in these surroundings ought to shine like a lyrical god, and William Shimell certainly looks the part: he might have stepped from a Mills & Boon cover, and his fantasy handsomeness could well be irresistible to this Anna and this Elvira (this Zerlina would see through it, but still take pleasure in what she found: this is a gorgeously sung, vital, sexy performance from Lesley Garrett). Mr Shimell's singing lives up to his appearance when he is alone, but lost night his voice tended to be covered in ensembles, robbing him of authority. He scored a coup, though, in imitating Mr Van Allan so successfully for Mark Richardson's stalwart Masetto.

The single set makes possible an uninterrupted performance of each act, and the flow is further assisted by the musical



William Shimell

decision to use piano and cello continuo: their harmonic support is exceedingly discreet, and Dr Miller encouraged his cast to bend the recitative towards speech. Moreover, the absence of clattering harpsichord cadences removes the frames around numbers.

As for the orchestral accompaniment, that is not discreet at all, as is perhaps inevitable in a house of this size. One jibs a bit seeing so many chances for elegance pass by, but perhaps Mark Elder makes the wisest choice in playing the score for its dramatic, symphonic potential. More than once one feels Beethoven leaning over Mozart's shoulder, and snoring no doubt at Dr Miller's vision of hell.

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SPECTRUM

March of change at Sandhurst

A report presented to the Ministry of Defence this week may change the traditional training methods of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent, investigates

Thirty miles south-west of London on the Surrey-Berkshire border lies the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Since 1812 it has been the home of much that is best in the British Army.

Great generals like Montgomery, Roberts, Alexander and Wavell have done their early training there. Churchill was there, as were King Hussein of Jordan, ex-President Gowon of Nigeria, and Ayub Khan, who was to become President of Pakistan.

Innumerable generations of officers have learnt the basics of soldiering there, struggling with tree trunks and mud on assault courses, but also learning military history, technology and other disciplines. They have also engaged in some pretty rowdy behaviour. Montgomery, for one, is reputed to have set fire to a fellow cadet's shirt-tail.

It is a place of tradition. The Academy Sergeant Major is always the senior non-commissioned officer in the British Army. At the end of their courses the cadets receive their commissions at the Sovereign's Parade, where whoever takes the salute represents the Queen, though she herself has done so only twice in the past 20 years.

The Sovereign's Parade, which senior officers, looking back 25 years, still count as one of the great events of their lives, also provides the most potent symbol of Sandhurst. It concludes with the newly-commissioned officers marching up the steps and through the portals into Old Building, followed by the Academy Adjutant, who clatters up the steps on his charger - for over 10 years now, the white horse Alexander.

Sandhurst has seen much change over the years, but in a place of tradition change never comes easily. A new phase of controversy seems about to begin as the army considers proposals for re-constructing the training of officers.

Though its military antecedents date back over 170 years, Sandhurst has been the Royal Military Academy for less than 40 years. Before that it had trained cavalry and infantry officers for the Indian Army, but the Gunners and the Sappers had trained at Woolwich. In 1947 these establishments were brought together and Sandhurst changed its name from Royal Military College to Royal Military Academy.

For a long time it was truly academic, taking cadets for two years, one of which was devoted to scholarly subjects such as military history (or war studies, as it is called) and languages. It ensured that officers would have a reasonably broad understanding of the world and society.

But doubts began to emerge. Did this approach necessarily produce the best officers, or at any rate the best second lieutenants and lieutenants? Some began to argue that much shorter courses more precisely focused on practical military skills, such as those at Mons camp at Aldershot and Eaton Hall, Cheshire, produced more effective national service officers and junior commanders.

Increasing emphasis was put on training being practical and "professionally relevant". War studies were confined to wars since the Second World War. Courses were shortened and became more and more congested, with insufficient time to do academic subjects well, nor for the sport and adventurous training by which the army sets much store.

Now each year about 360 graduates and about 400 non-graduates, plus a number of overseas students, do two terms, each of 14 weeks. The bulk of it has a heavily practical and physical emphasis, so that students have a reputation of being so tired that many of them sleep through the more academic sessions.

For the non-graduates there is an additional 14-week course after they have been in the army between two and four years. This course provides their first instalment of sustained academic military study. But a year from now all this may be changing, with critics complaining that academic study is being still further reduced, and others countering that it is merely being redistributed to occur at more logical stages in an officer's career. The critics say this may be the end of Sandhurst as an institution worthy to be called an academy.

The agent of change is a red-bound 150-page report which on Monday landed on the desk of General Sir Nigel Bagnall, Chief of the General Staff, the army's most senior active officer. Only he and two or three of his closest and most senior colleagues at the Ministry of Defence have so far seen the finished document, though an interim report had been circulated and commented upon, and that the final report does not differ greatly from it, there must be a strong likelihood that the general drift of the report will be accepted.

Among the recommendations that have aroused criticism because of their likely impact on Sandhurst are:

● A four-week course at the rank of captain to prepare officers for promotion examinations to be replaced by a correspondence course.

● Facilities for the teaching of military technology to be closed at Sandhurst, and be concentrated at the Royal Military College of Science at



Traditional Sandhurst: the Academy Adjutant on his charger

early stages of their careers, and the impact of these on Sandhurst, that are controversial.

The recommendations are expected to be considered for about six months, and if accepted, to be implemented over a three-year period. Given that an interim report had been circulated and commented upon, and that the final report does not differ greatly from it, there must be a strong likelihood that the general drift of the report will be accepted.

Among the recommendations that have aroused criticism because of their likely impact on Sandhurst are:

● A four-week course at the rank of captain to prepare officers for promotion examinations to be replaced by a correspondence course.

● Facilities for the teaching of military technology to be closed at Sandhurst, and be concentrated at the Royal Military College of Science at

Shrivenham, with the loss of about 20 Sandhurst posts.

● Although the initial course for non-graduate officer cadets is to be increased from two 14-week terms to three (which in principle would be welcomed), this is to be achieved without any increase in cost or staff.

● The current 14-week Regular Careers Course which non-graduate officers now do at Sandhurst after two to four years service to be replaced by other courses for graduates and non-graduates of which only four weeks of academic study would be at Sandhurst.

The recommendations and the criticisms of them constitute a clash of philosophies. The proposals are thought to aim at providing officers with just the amount of training that is required to enable them to do their jobs at each stage of their careers.

What the army primarily wants out of Sandhurst is good junior commanders

HISTORY

- 1741 Royal Military Academy formed at Woolwich.
- 1800 Royal Military College formed at Great Marlow.
- 1812 Royal Military College moved to Sandhurst.
- 1888 Royal Military College and Royal Military Academy closed during World War I.
- 1847 Royal Military Academy and Royal Military College merged to reopen as the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.
- 1972 More Officers Cadet School, Aldershot, merged with Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Two-year Sandhurst courses discontinued.

who have the skills and the leadership qualities to enable them effectively to lead an infantry platoon or similar units.

One complaint about the current arrangements is that the army devotes a lot of resources to training young officers, only for many of them to leave the service after a few years. The new proposals will, among other things, be aimed at ensuring as far as possible that resources are concentrated on people only when it is clear they are going to make an extended career in the army.

Some of the critics look back to the days when Sandhurst provided two-year courses, and argue that its academic studies should be of university standard, if not of university length. They compare Sandhurst's truncated courses to the four-year courses at West Point in America, or the degrees which the French military academy at St Cyr can award.

The critics argue that academic studies have been downgraded and are about to be further reduced when, in their view, what really should be cut is parade-ground drill.

They point to the war studies department, which has an international reputation, and which is regarded as the best of its kind in any western military academy. How long, they ask, will it retain that eminence if academics find themselves having to operate correspondence courses which are seen as "a cheap jack way of educating people"?

Supporters of the proposals would probably argue that far from academic subjects being downgraded, a new importance is being attached to war studies, with the resumption of the study of pre-World War II campaigns.

They would probably also contend that correspondence courses based on the most modern techniques as used by the Open University and other educational bodies are an effective and respectable way of teaching which have been used by the United States forces and the RAF. It is much easier to accommodate a correspondence course into an officer's working life than to have him whisked away for a residential course lasting some weeks.

For some critics the proposals amount to no more than an attempt to save money, without too much regard for the effect it will have on the general quality of officers. The ability to read maps, handle radio procedures, keep fit, write basic reports and lead small units of men, is not enough, they say.

There is also a feeling that Sandhurst may suffer because it lacks political clout. Officers may look back with nostalgia on the Sovereign's Parade at which they were commissioned, but that is no match for the influence exerted by the Staff College just around the corner at Camberley, where the high-fliers emerge, and where many of the instructing staff are on their way to becoming generals.

The fundamental question being asked is whether Sandhurst will truly remain the Royal Military Academy, or whether it will end up as merely an officer cadet training unit.

Popular champion for science's fight

Sir George Porter, new President of the Royal Society, faces a daunting battle against cuts

The election last Saturday of a new President of the Royal Society came at a time when morale among its members, drawn mostly from British universities and laboratories, is at its lowest ebb.

Amid unprecedented disquiet, Oxford dons, for example, are petitioning other universities to campaign against the "irreparable damage government cuts have done to science" and to explain these dangers to the public.

In this atmosphere the Society broke with tradition this year. Its governing body's 21 members nominated their candidate by March instead of the usual date, November 30. They had no doubt that the man to stop the rot was Sir George Porter.

In recent years, the 325-year-old society has often been criticised as being too introspective. That is not a word associated with its new president.

Sir George, who succeeds Sir Andrew Huxley and celebrates his 65th birthday on Friday, is a fluent broadcaster and public lecturer. He was a pioneer of televised science programmes and a catalyst for the acclaimed annual Young Scientist of the Year television series. He is also Nobel Laureate and Director of the British Association.

Yet all his talents will be stretched over the next five years if science is to be put back on the map. There has been an acceleration in the brain drain of brilliant young researchers to higher paid posts and better equipped laboratories in the United States, as government cuts have crippled universities.

"Some see science as unpopular almost to the point of hatred"

It is clear that the time has come for the Royal Society to fulfil its professed obligation "for the promotion of the natural sciences, mathematics, engineering and medicine". Nor does it need a science degree to work out why they chose Sir George to lead the fight.

Some clues to the man's passion and approach came in a recent lecture in which he said: "Most of the population are ignorant of science and many have that extreme form of ignorance called fear. It is as well that scientists should recognize this; science and technology are unpopular almost to the point of hatred with some sectors of the community. Painful as it may be, we should listen to the unpopular side."

"The popularization of science is not always very popular, especially among scientists. Many of them associate it with a lowering of standards, a loss of rigour. In French the word

for popularization is vulgarization which, for some scientists, just about sums it up. This attitude is not only quite mistaken but, in the modern world, positively dangerous."

In today's language Sir George Porter is a natural communicator. He is the man who made thermodynamics, once the nightmare of science undergraduates, a truly "dynamic" theory through his television debut over 20 years ago. He has an infectious enthusiasm about science, particularly chemistry, his chosen field.

He still remembers the teachers who fired his imagination, and recalls every detail of his first chemistry lesson, at the grammar school in the South Yorkshire mining village of Stainforth. It was with a Mr Moore. "We were given a small sample of some beautiful crystals and invited to experiment with them to find out all we could. To get us going Mr Moore showed us how to light and operate a Bunsen burner and suggested that we might use it in some way."



Prophet of popularization: Sir George Porter

"We were already hooked on chemistry before he produced his magic first lecture with all the colours and fireworks in the repertoire."

Sir George went on to Leeds University and served as a radar officer with the Royal Navy during the Second World War. It was through this latter training that he gained the background for his academic distinction, flash photography. The technique involves using brief bursts of light to trigger and record very fast chemical reactions, and the research work led to him sharing the Nobel Prize.

His present work is concerned with the primary process of photosynthesis, a future application of which could be harnessing solar energy. When Sir George received his Nobel Prize, he sent a note from the Grand Hotel in Stockholm to his department in Sheffield, saying: "Wish you were here to take your share of the honour."

He is well-known for his expertise on the dance floor, and it is that talent, combined with his prize for flash photography, which earned him the nickname among the "less reverent of Flash Porter."

Pearce Wright

SATURDAY

The weekend starts here



All his yesterdays

Ex-Beatle Paul McCartney's fame is immense - and that's the problem. He is still primarily referred to as a former member of the group and only secondarily as a rock star in his own right. In an exclusive interview, McCartney talks about his song-writing, from the Beatles to Wings, and his relationship with John Lennon

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An uncommon cold converts a cat hater

COMMENT

I had never been a cat lover, and I shall not be attending the National Cat Club Show at Olympia tomorrow. When the man next door has 24 cats roaming around his - and your - garden, plus another 10 who never, ever, leave the front room of his house, it somehow puts you off moggies. When the old lady further along the street walks around with a cat perched on her head, fancying a feline seems rather absurd.

The man is no longer with us, gone to a world where the RSPCA and Environmental Health officers can no longer harass him. The old lady has given up acting as a human perch; she was also a human scratching-post. There is no sentimental nonsense about



pussycats around here now, thank heavens. But why am I walking up the garden with a tin of Kitti-Gobble in one hand while I bang it with a spoon held in the other? Why am I making stumping, come-hither noises through pursed lips, while climbing a tree in the dark? The answer is that my

daughter developed a sniff. Winter and summer, it was the same, snuffle, snuffle; it was like living in the Common Cold Research Centre. The only aural escape was to don the noisy Walkman headphones. But every time I had to take off this protection, there it was again, the snuffling and hooting.

The homeopath whose advice we sought had a bizarre solution, so bizarre that I was under the impression that I had misheard - something it is easy to do when the fingers are pressed firmly into the inner ear. "Get a cat," she said. "She needs something to cuddle."

"If this is alternative medicine," I thought, "give me cash-intensive, high-tech treatment complete with side-effects any time, and never mind the waiting lists or queue-jumping."

My daughter's face lit up. She turned to me, and said, "I'll think about it." I said, "But don't cats give you colds?" It so happened that the couple who moved in next door (into the dead man's shoes, or cat baskets) did have more kittens than they knew what to do with. The proud (feline) mother was a fine specimen. Her offspring turned out to be so classy that it seemed a pity to land them in our household. Can humans give cats colds?

Early in their formative days, the kittens (we chose one, it brought a companion from the

litter) were adopted. Since then, there has been deafening silence on the snuffling front. Not a snuffle. The offending nose has been redeployed into its legitimate functions of breathing and smelling scents. I haven't worn the headphones in weeks. All we hear is purring.

When it comes to the day-to-day care of the cats, it is the usual story. The poor father is lumbered with all the chores. I look after them entirely, apart from fetching cat food, dishing out cat food, fetching cat litter, dishing out cat litter, pouring out milk, taking them to the vet and so on. It is only fair to let my daughter have the pleasure of all that.

Unfortunately, the system breaks down at 9.30pm, when I send her off to bed, making sure she has given the bowl enough Kitti-Gobble to see the two of them through until morning. Sometimes I forget to close the back door, whereupon they shoot up the garden and hide up trees, from which they cannot climb down.

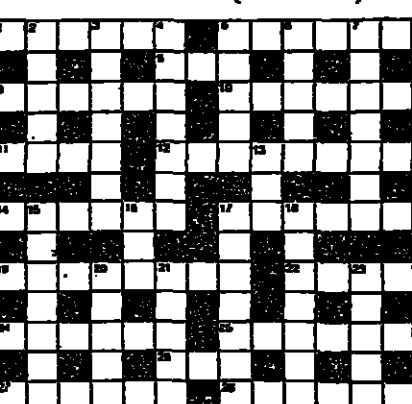
Up the garden are other, nastier cats. There could be ferocious dogs or psychopathic foxes. If the kittens are not back for breakfast, there will be tears - and not just from me. There will be sniffs.

That is why I am trying to lure the truant's down with comforting noises such as banging the tin to persuade them it is yet another meal-time. I do it quietly, though. One doesn't want the neighbours, to think one's making a fool of oneself.

Jonathan Sale

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 - 10 High spot (6)
 - 11 Chinese gooseberry (4)
 - 12 Nazi propagandist (6)
 - 14 Small harpsichord (6)
 - 17 Fire surround (6)
 - 19 Straining pan (8)
 - 22 Charity (6)
 - 24 Pauper (6)
 - 25 Discomfort (6)
 - 26 Toddler (3)
 - 27 Windy (6)
 - 28 Mission (6)



- DOWN
- 2 Striped giraffe (5)
 - 3 Of ideal existence (7)
 - 4 Air current (7)
 - 5 Survey (5)
 - 6 Go up (5)
 - 7 Scallion (7)
 - 13 Extra ruse (3)
 - 15 Innovator (7)
 - 16 Unintelligent (1,1,1)
 - 17 Hairy (7)
 - 18 Not professional (7)
 - 20 Quarrel (5)
 - 21 Filthy (5)
 - 23 Stone worker (5)

SOLUTION TO No 818

ACROSS: 8 Interrogative 9 Tip 10 Negotiate 11 Merge 13 Endless 16 Deserve 19 Scamp 22 Porringer 24 Tar 25 Skirting board

DOWN: 1 Victim 2 Snupor 3 Grandeur 4 Toggle 5 Taut 6 Tirade 7 Jewess 12 Ere 14 Describe 15 Sum 16 Depose 17 Sordid 18 Engine 20 Actual 21 Parade 23 Iota

TO AVOID INSOLVENCY

AUCTION

290 PERSIAN

AND ORIENTAL RUGS

City Merchant Bankers have suspended export and home market transactions of Persian Carpet Trading Co. Ltd. (Established 1954). They have instructed the auctioneers to realise at hammer prices the entire stocks in bonded warehouses. This is a move prior to foreclosure.

SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER

11.00am. LOTS 1-145

SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER

3.00pm. LOTS 146-290

Stock will be removed from bond to:

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Sunday: noon to time of sale

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TURKISH: Suk Heraks, Silk Kermans, Melas, Doshemali, Yavali, Kairs, Yechabed, and other village pieces.

And many others from the major hand weaving centres of the East including numerous old and antique pieces.

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FRIDAY PAGE

Scene but not herd

The Albert Hall tonight is the latest venue for the new in-crowd.

Catherine Bennett reports on the people

cashing in on cachet

Paul Buck sat in a Soho restaurant and lowered his voice to a whisper. "People have tried to sabotage our operation," he says. "A lot of people seem to resent success."

In a cluttered office overlooking Park Lane, Francis Mander's lady-aided assistants, B and Boo, were putting bits of paper in envelopes. Mander was speaking of his rivals. "They lose money and then they get cold feet," he says. "There are a lot of people copying - I think they are doing it to make a fast buck."

The business which unites these two anxious young men is that of party-giving - a new commerce in pleasure and conversation which can make a successful operator thousands of pounds in a single night.

The fashionable nightclubs in London may look packed, but lurking outside are hundreds of jaded 20-year-olds, for whom a good time is something more than jumping up and down to mild-mannered soul, drinking cocktails, and spotting celebrities from EastEnders. Their goal is not so much fun, as a sense of exclusiveness. Fortunately, for Paul Buck, and his colleagues, they are prepared to pay handsomely for it.

'You get in if they know you or like the look of you'

This profitable trade in social cachet for used flyers began, according to the party-givers, around three or four years ago. Fashion dictators, led by Steve Strange and Rusty Egan, started to open nightclubs within clubs where they stood at the door and vetted the clientele for style, rather than wealth.

"They wanted their own little party," says Wendy Latimer, who promotes The Goldenrod nightclub, a venue now much coveted by the party business. "The idea was to have a trendy clique."

But once people got to hear about them, even these elite clubs became too accessible, and enterprising clubbers began to stage occasional "parties" in deserted factories, disused basements and empty warehouses. You would only even hear about them if you knew the right people, went to the right clubs or shops, and wore the kind of clothes which appealed to the party-givers.

Paul Buck's parties, which he runs with a partner and calls Zoo or Zoom, are the sanitized legacy of the warehouse party. The clientele is notified well in advance, chosen from Buck's mailing list of 850 names. He searches for new venues to tempt the fickle partygoers - but these days they are licensed, closer to bus routes and protected by bouncers.



Boish enthusiasm: Francis Mander has a mailing list of 4,000 friends



Eminence grise: the Grey Organization at one of their parties

The balls and parties held by Francis Mander, or "Mandair Promotions", are black-tie events, where merchant bankers and their wives make believe they are at a private dance. The principle of Zoom, Mandair Promotions and their growing band of rivals remains the same - convince people that they are Chosen, and you can make £2,000 a night.

Paul Simper, writer for the pop magazine *No. 1*, has the right kind of slicked-back black haircut and leather jacket to get into clubs where he might pick up 10 invitations to such parties in one night. "You get in if they know you or like the look of you."

Who "they" are depends on your clique. Simper's warehouses are filled

with music business and fashion acolytes. "The most popular is to be a band manager. But you don't need to have a band. They just like to talk about it."

In fact, Paul says, the events are not always enjoyable, but you still have to go. "If it's brilliant, everybody is extremely pleased to have been there when nobody else was. It could have been the night you stayed in."

In a murky end-of-terrace house, close to the motorway which roars through Bromley-by-Bow, three short-haired young men who call themselves the Grey Organization claim to have taken the warehouse party one step further, by turning it into an artistic

event. They were the first to make a virtue out of discomfort, searching for large draughty "environments" which lent aesthetic credibility to the sale of cheap alcohol and hastily erected sound systems.

Zoom parties, by comparison, appear to be staid affairs. At a recent one held in the reception rooms of Lord's Cricket Ground, the lights were low, the two sound systems were heartbreakingly loud, but under the cricketing watercolours and frilly glass lampshades, the 20-year-olds could have been imitating their parents at an MCC dinner-dance. "I want people who want a good time - not necessarily by picking someone else up", Buck says proudly. "They are the core of thinking youth."

After holding five balls in two years, Francis Mander considers he has now secured the ultimate venue in the Royal Albert Hall, scene of his Mandair Ball tonight.

Francis and B and Boo have sent out 25,000 invitations to spend £22 or £30 on an evening which starts at 8pm, does not include food and closes at 1.30am. Entertainment includes a steel band, the Strauss Promenade Orchestra, trapeze act, discoball and "the live motion sound of Edna Starr". "It's pretty irresistible, isn't it?" Mander says. He needs to sell 1,500 tickets to break even.

Last year only 500 people turned up for the Wild West Fair in the Cotswolds, featuring a local rock band called Eaten by Sharks. But Mander's confidence was unshaken for his prized mailing list has continued to grow and he considers its potential unlimited. He pulls a few samples out of 4,000 tightly packed cards which have blossomed from an initial list of only 800.

'Everybody is pleased to have been there when nobody else was'

"I've got people I've met from 1970", he says, showing how he makes little remarks on each card to remind him who his friends are: "Met at Badminton". "Very high-powered", "Knows Brancaster Mob". Hidden away in the filing cabinets are Princess Diana's brother, Lord Rothermere's wife and Michael Heseltine's daughter. "I get some well-known people, don't I?"

This boish enthusiasm is clouded, however, when he mentions his competition - Oliver Baxter, for example, who points out that, at around £20, "Oliver's Dances" cost only a third of a charity ball ticket. Baxter says that he also gives money to charities - not from ticket sales, but from the raffle (with prizes donated by companies), the programme, and champagne pay bar.

He, too, has secured the Royal Albert Hall, for a Valentine's Ball next year, which he intends to fill with 2,600 people - mostly A/B public school types, with quite a lot of what might loosely be called Sloane Rangers and a lot of actors and actresses. They will be helped to get to know one another by Mr Baxter and little cardboard hearts worn on the lapel. "One is an impresario", says Mr Baxter.

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Mothers with a last chance to keep their children

With cases of child abuse on the increase, Sally Brompton reports on a centre which re-educates women to create happier families



Facing the future: mother and baby at the centre

Lisa was just 17 when the council decided her baby son, Craig, was in serious danger of losing his life.

An unmarried mother, Lisa was an habitual drug-taker living in squats, frequently in such a comatose state that she was incapable of looking after her baby, who suffered acute asthma attacks. He was regularly rushed to hospital, blue around the mouth, to be resuscitated.

The council considered putting him in care. Instead, they sent both him and Lisa to Dartmouth House Centre in Greenwich, south-east London.

In the wake of the official report on the Jasmine Beckford tragedy and at a time when the cases of child abuse are increasing dramatically, the staff of Dartmouth House believe they have the solution to prevent such catastrophes and to reform mothers who ill-treat their children, either by physical and emotional violence or by neglect.

Working on the principle that such mothers were themselves seriously abused by their own parents when young, the centre - thought to be the only one of its kind in Europe - sets out to re-educate both mother and child as a family unit.

"Many of these child abuse cases could have been predicted and anticipated by the local authority when the mother first presented herself at the ante-natal clinic," says the centre's principal, Miss Janet Evanson. "Preventative work which would cut out a large proportion of tragedies could be done reasonably easily."

A director of Wel-Care, the specialist social work agency which founded the centre nearly three years ago, Evanson has been with it from the start. Of the six dozen families who have been treated there voluntarily since its inception, she claims an 80 per cent success rate.

Lisa was typical of the young mothers to whom Dartmouth House represents their last chance to keep their children. Her own mother vanished when she was a small child leaving her father to bring up four youngsters whom he alternately beat and neglected.

By the time she was 14, Lisa had taken on the role of mother herself. By the age of 15 she had left home.

When her social worker brought her and Craig to Dartmouth House Janet Evanson recalls her being "full of personality and creativity and in a complete mess".



Pioneer: Janet Evanson, principal at Dartmouth House

Lisa's initial reaction to her new surroundings was normal. She smashed windows, chucked plates about and disappeared with Craig for hours at a time. It took about seven months and all the skills of the centre's highly qualified staff to alter her behaviour pattern. After 15 months she was ready to leave.

"The most important change was her awareness that she was going to have to adapt her lifestyle in order to meet the needs of her delicate little boy", Evanson says. "She had also become much more self-confident and trusting and generous in her relationships with other people."

Lisa recognized, in her own words, that she needed a "rule of life" in order to give Craig the "decent and happy life" she wanted for him.

She has since had another baby and is now living with her new boyfriend - "a steady and supportive young man" - and bringing up her two children in a responsible and caring way.

The centre's 29 full-time and 20 part-time workers provide 24-hour cover to help the mothers and their children with a combination of counselling and teaching them the basic skills necessary to look after their children and run their lives. The workers stress the importance of improving the mothers' self-esteem and of encouraging the mother-child relationship.

"In our view it cannot be a question of either the child or the mother being the focus of our attention. The safety and long-term interests of the child will depend on our effectiveness in rehabilitating the mother", Evanson explains.

The centre has room for 33 mothers and their children. It is very much a family atmosphere in which each mother and child (or children) have their own private room and are free to come and go as they please, providing they stick to their 9am to 4.30pm timetable five days a week. Boyfriends are welcome to join the sessions and each mother is entirely responsible for the welfare of her own child.

The fact that the girls frequently revisit the centre to see the staff is an indication of the success of the pioneering system. "We become the only meaningful family the girls have ever had", Evanson says.

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Viral volunteers

Gastric flu, common in the past few weeks, is usually attributed by doctors to a virus infection.

Recent research at the Common Cold Unit at Salisbury has confirmed this and shown that many outbreaks are due to the caliciviruses.

The Salisbury centre investigates a wide variety of mild viral infections. As well as the caliciviruses it is also working on the parvoviruses - organisms which cause "slapped cheek" or fifth disease.

This usually affects children and is often incorrectly diagnosed as typical German measles, or a feeding rash. It attacks in two stages: in the first phase the child is generally unwell and suffering from mild flu-like symptoms; at this time the virus is affecting the bone marrow and interfering with red cell production. In the second stage the bone marrow recovers but the patient develops a rash which is red and maculopapular (hence the term slapped cheek), and fleeting joint pains.

Dr D. A. J. Tyrrell told *The Times* that he was grateful that there was no shortage of volunteers willing to risk catching a mild infection in return for a fortnight's rest and isolation in Salisbury. As the present batch of volunteers settles down to their Christmas holiday on December 19, they can be assured that the viral infections they have had will have left no ill effects. The material used to infect them was all prepared long before the days of the HTLVIII virus and AIDS. Where appropriate, it has been screened for hepatitis B.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

The strong nerves of Mikhail Gorbachov



When Dr David Owen, who trained as a neurologist, diagnosed Mr Brezhnev's emphysema, he was straying outside his specialty, but if he studies the television pictures of the present Russian leader, Mr Gorbachov, he should be able to give an expert opinion.

Mr Gorbachov presents an interesting neurological problem. Has he any signs, other than his birthmark of the Sturge Weber syndrome? In a few cases, the fifth trigeminal cranial nerve shows a capillary or cavernous haemangioma, the birthmark which shows clearly in Gorbachov's photographs. This is associated with similar abnormalities in the blood vessels of the meninges - the covering of the brain - together with developmental changes in brain tissue underlying the affected area.

The syndrome was first described by Dr Sturge in 1879 and the damage to the brain was demonstrated radiologically by Dr Weber in 1929. If Mr

Undamaged: does Gorbachov have Sturge Weber syndrome? Gorbachov had the full Sturge Weber syndrome it is likely that he would have had serious symptoms in childhood like fits, limb weakness on the side of the body opposite to the birthmark and, in the most severe cases, mental retardation. Although Mr Gorbachov's skin lesion is above the angle of the eye (the most dangerous site), so far as it is possible to judge without X-rays and EEGs he seems to have escaped neurological damage.

Just a little aspirin

Inspired by the publication of a clinical trial extolling the advantages of the feverfew plant as a means of preventing migraine, two Dutch doctors - J. Wind of the Free University, Amsterdam and J. Punt of the Middelburg Hospital, Bussum -

have written to the *British Medical Journal*. They describe the effect of a daily dose of aspirin on the number and severity of migraine attacks suffered by a group of patients. Of the nine men treated, eight improved and one got worse; of the 23 women, 17 improved. The doctors feel that the benefit is due to the ability of low doses of aspirin to reduce the aggregation, or clumping, of platelets - a constituent of the

blood involved in the clotting mechanism. A similar dose of aspirin has been shown to reduce the likelihood of strokes and coronary heart attacks in susceptible people.

Some patients, even those who are at considerable risk of having strokes but who would otherwise be suitable for aspirin treatment, refuse to take it because of its action on the stomach lining. Help for these patients will soon be available with enprostil from Syntex and misoprostil from Searle.

These two new gastrointestinal prostaglandins have been shown to be effective in preventing the inflammation and peptic ulceration which many patients experience when they take the non-steroidal anti-rheumatic drugs (which include aspirin).

Research work has shown that gastric irritation is so greatly reduced that patients previously sensitive to aspirin can withstand large doses. But patients who are pregnant should avoid taking all prostaglandins.

Carry on coughing



The Consumers Association has added its support to warnings which already appear in the doctors' guide, *British National Formulary*, on the misuse of cough medicines. Critics of them say that if they effectively suppress the cough reflex they are dangerous to patients who have a productive loose cough. This is particularly true if the cough is due to chronic bronchitis or bronchiectasis, and it can be disastrous to the patient's breathing if there is any element of asthma.

Expectorants which used to be prescribed to help the patient bring up sputum are now thought to be useless, the mucolytics which were designed to loosen the mucus are now considered to be no more effective than a warm drink or a hot curry; demulcents (the sweet, soothing mixtures sold by the gallon over the counter) damage the teeth and can be replaced by warm drinks.

But the experts agree that some patients do need a cough suppressant and if a cough keeps the patient awake at night, this can delay recovery. A dry cough can be treated with the pholcodine linctus group.

Some mothers will feel thwarted if they cannot give their coughing child a suppressant. If so the demulcent is the best choice.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

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GOING PUBLIC

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THE TIMES
DIARY

Sailing close
to the wind

Eccentric employment minister Alan Clark is heading for trouble again. Notorious for his reference to blacks as denizens of "Bongo Bongo Land", he now finds himself unable to support one of his own government's bills. Despite strong whipping, Clark was absent from Monday's 10 pm vote on the controversial Dockyard Services Bill which would contract out the management of the Royal Dockyards at Devonport and Rosyth. Officially visiting a job centre in Southampton, Clark, who represents Devonport workers, owned up to me: "If you don't vote, that presumably means you have rejected that option." Although he expects the bill's committee stages to effect changes in it, could I assume he does not agree with it in its present form? "Yes, I think it's fair to say that," he said. Under the doctrine of collective responsibility, such ministerial disloyalty would normally spell resignation. But as one insider put it yesterday, the usual rules do not seem to apply to Alan.

Pulpitations

The guests at Margaret Thatcher's at home this week, which included every premier since Eden, could hardly fail to feel the chill between her and Dr Robert Runcie, following Tory denunciation of the C of E's report on the inner cities. Instead of politely asking the archbishop to say grace as is usual, the Prime Minister peremptorily ordered: "Now we'll have grace" - leaving Runcie to stumble to his feet uninvited. No wonder fellow diner David Steel, who emerged from Number 10 with Runcie at his side, was overheard joking: "I'm not sure if I should be seen with a Marxist like you."

Inquest time

Is the supposedly healthy privatized British Telecom heading, after all, the way of all flesh? The Royal National Institute for the Blind has just received a BT order form and a pre-paid envelope in which to return it. The envelope is addressed to St Pancras Coroner's Court.

Ponting's secret

Allow me to enlighten readers on one private life which I suspect will not be released by Clive Ponting in his apparently explosive book to be published next March, entitled *Whitehall: Tragedy and Farce*. It was sent to P. J. Spjut of the University of Kent, who wanted the MoD to send a copy of the Yellow Card, issued to members of the Army, for Spjut's forthcoming book on the use of deadly force by the security forces in Northern Ireland. Back came a reply on behalf of Michael Heseltine. "As a matter of policy, the MoD does not publish details of operational guidelines... the Yellow Card gives general legal guidance to Service personnel in certain situations and publication of an authenticated current version could assist terrorists or rioters in planning attacks. I am sorry this is an unhelpful reply. Yours sincerely, Clive Ponting."

BARRY FANTONI



"It's quite safe. Just don't believe everything it says"

Same old story

Do not expect to spot Ian MacGregor or many other captains of industry taking advantage of British Rail's luxury new pullman lounges at King's Cross and Euston, complete with complimentary coffee and photo-copying machines. Although open to first-class ticket-holders with American Express cards, they are barred to railroaders. That excludes all business travellers over 60 sensible enough to want to save their companies 34 per cent on inter-city travel. This new form of age apartheid has stung Anthony Cowlitz, 70-year-old director of the British Management Data Foundation, to make a formal complaint. BR yesterday defended the policy as necessary to prevent overcrowding in the lounges.

Hello?

Stand by for the sight of a puzzled PC Plod next January - the month in which the Police and Criminal Evidence Act takes effect. A policeman draws my attention to Section 41 (4) of the apparently "simplified" legislation. "Sub section (2) above shall have effect in relation to a person arrested under Section 31 above as if every reference in it to his arrest or his being arrested were a reference to his arrest or his being arrested for the offence for which he was originally arrested..."

PHS

Monopolies: the moving target

Patience Wheatcroft looks at the uncertain machinery activated by recent City mergers

The City is being swept by such a tidal wave of takeover bids that no company can feel safe. As the giant Distillers, Allied-Lyons and Plessey all come under siege, the most complacent corners of British corporate life have been shaken with the realization that they must fight - for profits and for independence.

This bout of aggression in the City places the government in something of a quandary. Although this vigorous approach to commercial matters is the very stuff of Thatcherism, the results may not be in keeping with Downing Street philosophy: monopolies may be good for suppliers but they are rarely in the interests of consumers.

While the current takeover bids would not create any outright monopolies, they would certainly add to the strength of some suppliers and so could be said to lessen competition. Hence the first thought of any company coming under attack tends to be to run to the government crying for the attack to be outlawed.

The machinery for this is the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which can advise the Secretary for Trade and Industry to forbid or annul a corporate marriage. Such events are rare indeed. Since 1965 only 81 bids have been subjected to the scrutiny of the commission and of those only 24 have been ruled out.

The most famous refusal was to Roland "Tiny" Rowland of Lorch in his efforts to take over the Harlands store group. House of Fraser, a sale to Lorch, said the government, would not be in the

public interest. That decision so infuriated him that he has allowed nobody to forget it. When only three years later the Egyptian Al-Fayed brothers were allowed to buy House of Fraser without even an investigation his cries of "foul" grew ear-shattering.

The framework for our current policy was laid down in the Fair Trading Act of 1973. Last year, after a review of its workings, the then Trade and Industry Secretary, Norman Tebbit, restated the British approach to mergers. It remained distinctly pragmatic: "Competition", he said, was to be the cornerstone.

But the government retained its discretion to refer mergers to the Monopolies Commission on grounds other than competition, and "public interest" could still be a big factor. And even if the commission found that a particular takeover was not in its liking, the government reserved the right to take note of its findings but nonetheless wave the merger through.

By comparison with the detailed merger legislation of the United States, the British version runs the risk of being inconsistent. The City is quite unable to predict, for example, which of the current wave of proposed takeovers might be referred to the Monopolies Commission, let alone approved.

The need for some consistency is occupying the government and its

somewhat overworked first port of call for all mergers, the Office of Fair Trading. It is the task of the OFT to safeguard competition policy, pushing operators and solicitors to compete where peaceful co-existence had previously been easier and highly profitable. It also falls upon the OFT to look at takeover bids and recommend whether they should be subjected to the scrutiny of the Monopolies Commission.

Under the directorship of Sir Gordon Borrie, a lawyer with a deep knowledge of commerce and a dislike of inconsistency, the OFT strives to give a comprehensive view of competition policy. Its statutory duty is to look at all takeovers of companies with assets of more than £30 million if the merger would give the combined enterprise more than 25 per cent of a particular market.

But what market? A merger of United Biscuits with Imperial Group, one of the latest batch of proposals, would not involve a quarter of the brewing business, where Imperial has Courage, but it would have a more than 25 per cent share in the savoury snacks market. Pick the right criterion and the OFT can get the desired result.

Beyond such simple arithmetical criteria, the OFT is also empowered to look at matters of "public interest", generally taken to include possible job losses, deterioration of

service to the consumer, the balance of payments and anything else that might be in vogue.

Should the OFT suspect that a proposed takeover might involve more than simple commercial considerations, it calls upon the assistance of the little-known Mergers Panel. This body has a floating membership of civil service heads who might be interested in specific cases, thus allowing plenty of scope for government views to filter through to the OFT.

A Bank of England director, David Walker, recently ventured to suggest that our merger policy could be improved. He felt that the stress on "competition" as the main arbiter of acceptability might well be widened. Effectively, he was asking whether the country should be standing back and allowing often expensively-financed takeovers to consolidate the base of British industry. He met with a sharp response from the government: "competition" was still the main criterion and the marketplace knows best, said the consumer affairs minister, Michael Howard.

It will be the government, however, that eventually decides whether it wants to pry into the deeper implications of a £1.8 billion takeover bid from the Australian brewer of Fosters Lager and it will be the government that decides whether Golden Wonder should be allowed an even larger crunch of the crisps market. When the ultimate criterion is "public interest", who can argue?

Paul Vallely on the questions raised by recent failures in Sudan

What kept the food from hungry mouths?

There ought, by now, to be a settled quality about the various refugee camps and feeding centres which Princess Anne is now visiting in Sudan. But behind the scenes the aid establishment is in a ferment of self-examination and criticism over the handling of the famine in Africa.

The famine relief operation in Sudan this year was the largest distribution of free food the world has ever seen. Its aim was almost a million tons of grain, but its most crucial objective was to get 330,000 tons of American sorghum to stores in the west of the country before the rains came and made road transport impossible for weeks on end. That part of the programme was a failure.

The prospects for this year's harvest are good, but it has once more failed substantially in some parts of the country and about 400,000 people will still need almost a million tons of food aid next year. The relief establishment is anxious that the mistakes of 1985 should not be repeated. But there is more to it than that. The operation in Sudan brought into question, in microcosm, many of the shibboleths on how the might of western technology and expertise can be brought to bear on the problems of the Third World.

The greatest blame must fall on the Sudanese government. The former president, Jafar Nimeiry, gloried in the notion that Sudan could become the bread-basket of Africa and then pursued policies that brought it to the brink of agricultural disaster. The United Nations organizations were slow to pick up the challenge when Nimeiry was finally provoked into appealing for aid. Only the US government responded with speed and boldness.

But the plan by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to mount the huge relief operation took insufficient account of the enormous logistical problems this vast country, and the corruption and inefficiency of the Sudanese railway system on which it relied. Furthermore, in deference to Reaganite economic theory it placed undue importance on the use of a single commercial firm, in contrast with the state-controlled system in Ethiopia or the ad hoc systems run by charities in other parts of Africa.

When agencies such as the Red Cross, Band Aid and Save the Children offered to help, they were turned down on the grounds that their interference would upset the market for hiring lorries. The belated offers of the UN organizations to transport food were also declined until it was too late.

USAID, by far the largest donor last year, sent from Washington a senior team of analysts, led by a former director of the organization, to discover what went wrong. But



already the Americans had decided to pull out of food distribution in Sudan.

This week, USAID handed over the operation to the newly established UN emergency office.

It is clear that the USAID officials deeply resent much of the criticism, but they are remaining tight-lipped about it.

Arkel-Talab, the joint Sudanese-American company contracted to deliver the grain to the two agencies in the west, responsible for distribution at village level, Save the Children and Care, has by dint of its close association with USAID come in for heavy criticism, a good deal of unfair.

"People have used us as a scapegoat," said Ahmed Talab, chairman of Arkel-Talab. "We have got caught in the political crossfire between USAID and the UN." The company has been blamed for the injudicious decision to rely entirely on the Sudanese railway for ferrying grain between Kosti, in the Central Region, and Nyala in the west, when in fact that decision was imposed on it by the Sudanese government.

It was blamed, too, for the refusal to hand over grain to be transported by other organizations to the west when it became apparent that the original systems were inadequate. "If we took the decision that it was our right to give grain to anyone we thought was in need, we would have been acting irresponsibly as far as our contract was concerned," said Ahmed Talab.

Much of the criticism came from agencies without access to the details of the contract between Arkel-Talab and the Sudanese government's Food Aid National Administration (FANA) for the distribution of the USAID sorghum. Although the original contract stipulated that a delivery schedule should be drawn up, this was never done, so that the only legal obligation on Arkel-Talab was that the grain should be delivered to 22 distribution points in the west by the middle of December. Arkel-Talab was thus able to deny allegations by Save the Children and

Care that it was "dumping" food in places which were easy to get to while ignoring more inaccessible destinations. "Dumping is delivering to an area more than it has been allocated," said Ahmed Talab. It was not dumping to take food to places which were easy to get to at a time when the rains made other places impossible.

Rowland Roome, the regional administrator for Care, the US agency responsible for distribution in Kordofan, continues to be critical of Arkel-Talab, so much so that the company has asked for Roome to be removed from his post.

"The contract was ludicrously liberal. They may have been acting within its letter, but they were not within the spirit of the job to get food to those who most desperately needed it," said Roome. "An area like western Sodiri, which was one of the worst hit - the Kababish people lost 95 per cent of their crops - continues to be subject to the worst level of food delivery."

"The problem is that, by definition, the worst places are the hardest to get to: that's how they got so bad in the first place. Had the distribution been placed in the hands of a charity, as it was in Somalia, instead of a commercial firm, then more effort could have been made to get food there, however uneconomic that would be."

Ahmed Talab feels this argument is unfair. "A charity is a charity. It can go into the market tomorrow and get £100 a sack and get a substantial number of trucks for Sodiri. That can be done. But as a commercial company with a fixed price contract, if you took that approach you might manage to deliver maybe 70 per cent and then go bankrupt."

He resents accusations that his company was guilty of insensitivity, incompetence and greed when everything it did was in strict accordance with its contract. "Quite the opposite. We took a unilateral decision in May, without any amendment to our contract... to move grain by road instead of

waiting for the railway. The more we moved, the more we risked because the original contract did not offer us payment for this," he said, referring to an unofficial instruction by USAID to move overland 30,000 tons of the 192,000 due to go on the railway, a decision which the Sudanese government is currently refusing to finance.

On one thing, and on this alone, the numerous participants agree. The death toll in the remote west of Sudan has probably not been as great as was predicted six months ago.

There are as many reasons offered to explain this as there are parties to the relief effort. Agencies on the ground, such as Oxfam and Save the Children, talk of the astonishing hardness of these desert peoples, who can withstand far greater deprivation than any Westerner could imagine. It is also possible that the nutrient value of the various famine foods of wild roots and berries is far greater than was supposed. USAID, which brought in an extra 560,000 tons of food for the famine victims, feels that, despite the snarl-up, sufficient food reached the population to make a difference. The United Nations emergency office in Khartoum is now saying that the original estimate of people at risk was inflated. The League of Red Cross Societies feels that many of those included in the national assessments had in fact already died unheeded in the drought of 1983-84.

"The sad truth is that in these emergencies the real lessons are never learned," said a senior UN officer who asked not to be named. "The response in the first year is always inadequate because it is always incremental as people in different places gradually become aware of the scale of the problem. By then it is always too late. The only way round that is to have a large standing disaster body constantly in readiness, often waiting doing nothing, rather than an army does. But in economic terms that will always be unacceptable. In the end it's always a question of dollars and sense."

Still time to hear the lawyers' plea

On January 1 the first national scheme to provide access to round-robin advice as a statutory right for suspects in police stations is due to come into force.

It has been acclaimed as the most sophisticated of its kind and will cost the taxpayer £20 million, one third of the entire cost last year of criminal legal aid. But there is a grave danger that it will collapse before it starts.

The scheme is being attacked by the solicitors who will run it as dangerously deficient. Discontent with the way it now stands is running so high that among several local law societies there are threats of a boycott. There has already been one well-publicized wrangle over lawyers' pay, resolved last summer when the Lord Chancellor came forward with £20 million for the scheme, more than three times the amount originally budgeted. But there is still concern over its effect on the suspects it is designed to help.

Set up under the Police and

Criminal Evidence Act 1984 to balance the new police powers that act provides, the scheme aims to ensure that suspects have a right to consult privately with a solicitor. In practice, at present, a negligible number of suspects obtains such access; some studies suggest as low as 2 per cent.

The amount of advice will be determined by the type of offence, one liable to five or more years' imprisonment, will get unlimited legal aid.

Everyone else will be entitled to a lower tier of advice costing up to £50 - which means up to two hours, including travelling time.

The Law Society objects that a number of serious offences are not covered by the unlimited advice bracket, such as assault on a police officer, carrying an offensive weapon and threatening behaviour.

In addition, it says, people voluntarily helping police with their inquiries, but not under arrest, are

entitled only to the restricted £50 limit advice, whatever the gravity of the suspected offence. The society argues that far more time is often needed, and points to the duty solicitor scheme run for the past five years in Birmingham, where one solicitor spent 12 hours with a client voluntarily helping police with a murder inquiry.

The Law Society also maintains that telephone advice anticipated by the government for many lower-tier offences will be impracticable as police stations do not have facilities for suspects to talk on the telephone in private. And finally it objects that friends and relatives of the suspects will not have access to the special central telephone number through which police will contact the duty solicitor, although voluntary schemes have shown they are the greatest users.

Talks with the Lord Chancellor's department have now reached an impasse. Officials are refusing for the moment to redraw the categories

along Law Society lines. Such evidence as there is, they say, indicates that doing so would substantially increase the numbers obtaining unlimited legal advice.

They also maintain that the society's costings are based on a number of assumptions different from reality, so that the estimated costs of just under £18 million for its own version of the scheme, department officials fear that the cost even of the one currently on offer could be as much as £30 million. They say they will take stock once the scheme is running and there is more information about demand, but in the meantime it must go ahead.

Regulations are soon to come before Parliament for approval. It will be a last chance, the Law Society says, to have them thrown out, so that the first duty solicitor scheme can begin with the backing of those most keen to see it work.

Frances Gibb
Legal correspondent

David Watt

Peacock's mid-term blues

The Peacock Committee's one-day seminar held last week at Church House, Westminster, on the financing of broadcasting was a pretty dismal affair.

Billed as an opportunity for high-class public debate, it rapidly deteriorated into a languid exchange of hostilities between familiar opponents who had heard, and said, it all a dozen times before. On the side of the status quo beside the BBC were the independent television companies, which fear a loss of advertising revenue if the BBC were obliged to advertise.

On the other side were the usual motley alliance of revolutionaries: the advertising industry, which wants to widen the market for TV advertisements in order to drive down rates, the free-market ideologists, who find the present system an intolerable affront to the memory of Adam Smith, and the cultural Thatcherites who detest the BBC as the epitome of old, soggy establishment paternalism. I don't know what the members of the Peacock Committee made of all this. I thought they looked duffily but a bit glazed.

At the halfway mark in its deliberations, it is rumoured that the chairman, Alan Peacock, has been forced to accept the impossibility of financing BBC output of existing standards out of an advertising "take" which would have to be shared with the independent companies, cable and satellite broadcasting, but that he is still casting about frantically for some system that will satisfy his intellectual conscience by exposing the corporation to at least some cold blast of market forces.

The practical difficulties of doing anything tremendously radical are very great at present, once the argument about advertising revenue has been conceded. The BBC is lucky in that the Thatcherite onslaught has been mounted a few years before technology has put plausible weapons in its hands. The state of the electronic art does not yet allow a selective system in which you are billed for exactly the amount of BBC time you have watched.

Still more irrelevant at this stage is Peter Jay's vision, expressed at Church House, of a national electronic "grid" which would allow any producer to plug in and "publish" material to whoever wanted to buy it. This idea, which attempts to equate broadcast material with other cultural "commodities" such as books or magazines, naturally wins enthusiasm from free-marketisers like Peacock and Samuel Brittan, which is presumably why they gave Jay a free platform at Church House. But it founders on two major difficulties. The first is the present cost of producing television material, which suggests that it would be almost impossible for the small specialist broadcast "publisher" to cover his expenses by the Jay method. Second, as Jay himself conceded, the "grid" could, for the foreseeable future, extend only to a fraction of the population.

There is, in short, no easy way yet of securing from the principles on which the BBC was founded. These

are that so long as there is a scarcity of channels of communication, the only fair system is one in which a limited service is made available to everyone, so long as there is only a limited amount of commercial money available for a very expensive but nationally important operation, the only way to keep up minimum standards is for the state to twist people's arms, one way or another, to pay for some of it. Watching the Peacock Committee writhing in the grip of these coils provides some aesthetic satisfaction to those, like myself, who have a lamentable taste for this kind of statuary. But it cannot be much fun for them. My foreboding is that they may try, in desperation, to cut free by suicidal methods, and the most obvious way of doing so is by abandoning the "standards" principle altogether.

Covering arguments for this position were duly trotted out at Church House. The most popular of these was put forward by a member of the advertising fraternity who implied that the man in the street does not like all the elitist stuff that the BBC strains down his throat. Why should the customer have exactly what he wants?

The trouble with this argument is that the evidence of the opinion polls (quoted once more here by Peter Keiller last Wednesday) is known to show nothing of the sort. The man in the street is in fact able to distinguish and appreciate "quality", and working-class households watch as much BBC television as middle-class ones - which is to say a great deal.

In other words the "standards" of the BBC, ITV and Channel 4 have now converged around a middle-brow norm which would probably collapse if there was not enough money about, and if the lingering influence of Keith's intentions did not inspire everyone to try to provide a wide range of choice.

But can the BBC maintain its present - and to some people already disappointing - standards of programming without more cash than even a generous licence fee can provide? Here is the other centimetre offered the committee by the advertisers. Let us admit, they say, the value of the BBC in principle. But how can it elevate and enrich a whole spectrum of public taste if it is always going to be hard up? Let it at least subsidize its splendid public service function by allowing a few ads on its less splendid quiz shows, like everyone else.

Apart from the hint of hypocrisy unmasked in this approach, the difficulty is, once again, the shortcomings of advertising revenue as a sufficient source of finance for what the country considers a desirable range and standard of broadcasting.

The real question Peacock has to answer is whether we should accept the consequences of trying to run the wide range of broadcasting currently considered necessary for the national good on an inadequate amount of money. The only alternatives are either to cut some services or to face the politicians with their proper task to persuade people of what is good for them, and of the necessity of paying for it.

Moreover... Miles Kingston

Critics hot about Joan's voices

Jane Lapointe, in Bath this week starting in a regional tour of Shaw's *St Joan*, commented recently that it feels very strange to be in a leading female role when every other speaking part in the play is male.

Not quite unprecedented, though. In the 1930s and 1940s girl singers often found themselves the only woman on a coach full of old-fashioned, hard-drinking saxophonists and brass players. I don't think any play has ever been written around this promising dramatic situation.

Nor does it need to be, it suddenly occurs to me. Why not give *St Joan* itself one of those currently fashionable productions, and reinterpret the play as a study of a big band singer? Update it to the 1940s, transplant it to America and it almost rewrites itself.

ACT ONE. A hick town, somewhere in the sticks. We hear the strains of "St Louis Blues", named after the legendary King of France. Enter the local bandleader, with his agent, looking disgruntled because he hasn't had a job for two months. The agent: Where are the gigs, man? You ain't laying the gigs on me. Agent: Don't blame me, Fats. Blame the chicks. They don't buy your records no more.

Leader: Well, listen, if you don't get me a job this week, I'm outta here.

Agent: And talking of chicks, you gotta give this girl - singer - an audition.

Leader: The one that hangs around outside my window singing "Sweet Lorraine".

Agent: The same. She is sensational. Leader: The answer is no. (Enter Joan. She sings "Fifty Million Frenchmen Can't Be Wrong"). And then maybe again, the answer is yes. Where did you learn to sing like that, kid?

Joan: I hear voices in my head. Leader: Oh yeah? What do they say to you?

Joan: (sings) "I'm in Heaven". Leader: OK, OK. You're hired, kid. Joan: I'm sorry, Fats. I want to go to New Orleans and sing with the man they call the Bastard - of New Orleans. Just give me the train fare and the money to buy men's clothes.

Leader: Why men's clothes? Joan: I think I'd look great in tuxedo and bow-tie. Leader: I don't know why I'm doing this, but here's the money. Agent: Hey, Fats! Great news! We've

just been offered two dozen gigs and all for next Saturday!

ACT TWO. Joan goes to New Orleans, which is crowded with English people and other foreigners. She sings with the Bastard, after getting his wind section changed, and is a smash hit. But she really wants to sing with Charlie Dauphin. Bastard: Charlie Dauphin? The one they say should be King of Swing? Well, he's a great player but he can never keep a band together. Joan: My voices tell me that I can help him do it. (Sings) "Nice work if you can get it."

Bastard: Yeah, enough, enough. Good luck, Joan.

She goes to join Charlie Dauphin (to the strains of "On Great Dauphin Street") and in a stunning scene picks him out from a crowd of musicians because he's the only one wearing a scruffy, unpressed band uniform. Her voices tell her to sing a "scat" version of "Royal Garden Blues". With her help Charlie is crowned King of Swing at Carnegie Hall. But she makes a mistake. The foreign critics, purists to a man, like the way she is taking over Charlie's band. They plot her downfall.

ACT THREE. A gathering of foreign critics listen to her latest record.

1st: She's great. No mistake about that.

2nd: But she has committed the unforgivable sin.

3rd: She has refused to listen to the critics, who have all told her to shut up so we can hear the band.

4th: So, all agreed we turn the heat on her?

(The scene shifts down South. Enter Fats and the agent, reading *Down Beat*.)

Fats: That's terrible. Joan has been given a roasting by the critics. Agent: Gone down in flames, huh? Fats: And she's been fired. Mark you, her voices were pretty hard to hear.

POSTLUDE: 25 years later, they are making a retrospective TV programme about Joan. They are all there in the studio - Fats, the Bastard, Charlie Dauphin, Earl, the Count, Duke.

Dauphin: Maybe I shouldn't have fired her. I wonder where she is now?

Joan (enters): Still around, boys! And my voices are here too! (Sings) "I Hear Music."

All: Too much! (Exeunt omnes, in a mad rush.)



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A MORAL CASE TO ANSWER

The Australian Royal Commission on Britain's nuclear tests places before the British government an issue which should be treated as a moral question, not merely a legal one. Whatever the debate over its detailed conclusions, Mr Justice McClelland's inquiry has disclosed a vast amount of new information which would otherwise have remained hidden. Whatever Britain's treaty obligations to an ally, the central question is whether the government accepts that new information creates new obligations.

Since the Ministry of Defence belatedly acknowledged that vast quantities of the records for the 1950s and 1960s could safely be opened without putting the nuclear deterrent of the 1980s at risk, it has become obvious that the documents badly needed to be aired. Some of them reflected credit on the organisers of the tests and safety procedures. But some did not. It was clear that aborigines suffered from second-class consideration and precautions when they were at risk from fallout. In short, the commission has demolished the British hope that our debt to Australia for help in time of need has been paid. There is a further instalment to come.

If the British government is tempted to resist this conclusion, it should reflect on realities as well as moral obligations. Australia is an important ally and the facilities it offers to United States forces and western defence

are pivotal. This is an increasingly important consideration in view of the question mark hanging over the other main American platform in the Pacific, the Philippines. Uranium exports from Australia have become sensitive to political pressure; exports to France have been suspended because of the nuclear testing programme currently under way. Britain is also a customer for Australian uranium. Mr Hawke faces a party conference next year at which he will be faced with renewed calls for withdrawal from both civil and military nuclear co-operation with his allies. Britain's interests do not lie in increasing such pressures.

What leverage Britain still has in Australia should be devoted not to discrediting McClelland, but to ensuring that a final settlement of its debt can now be achieved and that the possibility of the question being reopened is reduced to a minimum. Two linked problems arise.

The report suggests the establishment of a commission to oversee a new clean-up operation at three sites. Both governments must accept that the British commitment is not open-ended, even if the 1978 treaty blocking future reparation claims is amended or superseded. The second issue concerns the relationship between the settlement of claims brought forward by the Australian government and the claims of individuals. The British govern-

ment cannot agree to pay for clean-up work unless there is some limit to its liability for individual claims. (The approach to health damage claims by servicemen in Britain awaits the completion of a major government-sponsored epidemiological survey here).

The solution would appear to be an amendment to the treaty based on the division of responsibility made by the McClelland report. Australia, willing partner in the test programme, should compensate the aborigines and Britain should take on the further decontamination of the ranges. In negotiations which should be aimed at amending the 1978 treaty, Britain cannot concede a blank cheque. The figure on the cheque can only be fixed by a process which not only convinces Canberra, but also helps convince Australian public opinion that we are taking a fair share of the burden.

The scientific assessment of how much remains to be done, and how it should be completed and monitored, therefore needs to be as independent as possible and not confined to private conferences between government scientists on both sides. The governments should consider inviting the participation of experts from a friendly third party. It will not pay Britain to be seen quibbling. Long-term damage to relations between the two countries would in the end be greater than small sums of money saved in the short term.

BRASS TACKS SUMMIT

The Prime Minister's opinion of the outcome of the European summit is that it represents a modest but useful step forward in the development of the Community. That may appear to be a less than glowing reaction to what was achieved at Luxembourg this week, but it is thoroughly realistic.

To support her judgment in the matter, Mrs Thatcher has the witness of M. Jacques Delors, the President of the European Commission, who despite his hope of much more sweeping change, has nevertheless described the outcome of Luxembourg as a compromise for progress which is capable of being transformed into a dynamic compromise. So it can, provided the national parliaments of the member states are prepared to accept it, and assuming that too much is not eroded by the reservations placed on individual parts of the agreement by some member states, conspicuously by Italy and Denmark.

The biggest advance has been in the area where Britain most wanted to see it. It has been agreed in principle that the internal market consists of an area without frontiers in which the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital is ensured. This is to be achieved by changing the present requirement for unanimous decisions by the Council of Ministers to one of qualified majority voting in respect of any obstacles to a common market in this sense.

Thus the free movement of people means in effect that individual citizens of one country can be given the right (by majority voting) to practice their professions in another. But it does not mean that frontier controls will be dismantled. Each sovereign state remains responsible for police matters, and for taking whatever action it considers necessary at its frontiers to act against terrorism or drugs, to control immigration or to protect its public health and safety. Thus the summit agreed (after three hours argument) provisions that will enable Britain to protect itself against the risk of rabies, brucellosis, foot-and-

mouth disease and Colorado beetle.

But any such action must not be concealed protectionism, and where there is any dispute on that point the judgment will be for the European Court. The British government reasonably feels no anxiety about a judicial procedure, pointing out (as a measure of good Europeanism) that the United Kingdom has only been taken to the European Court eleven times in the last five years compared with Italy's 75 and France's 48.

The range of new subjects in which decisions should be reached more swiftly by majority voting is a significant one. Transport proposals by the Commission would now be dealt with in this way, including those affecting price-fixing in aviation and landing rights. The same procedure will cover the common customs tariff, the right to provide services (including insurance) throughout the Community and so on. Hitherto majority voting has been confined largely to the very subjects where it has often been used against the British interest, notably the Common Agricultural Policy and the Community Budget. Now it will be applied to an area where Britain wants action.

Additionally, the Council of Ministers, by a qualified majority decision, can under the proposed arrangements issue a directive requiring a member state to remove any national provisions which conflict with community decisions in this field. That has hitherto required a majority decision, giving each individual member state a veto if it chose to use it. Now a single dissenter can be over-ruled in the cause of harmonization, although, of course, the national parliament will still have the last word. Obviously this touches again on the question of sovereignty and on the possibility of conflict with a national parliament. But it merely extends a provision that already applies elsewhere.

The limited nature of the agreement on the internal market is indicated by the fact that it probably covers no more than

half the liberalisation proposals lately put forward by the Commission. As well as frontier controls and health and food standards, the environment, technology and taxation all still require unanimity. It has been agreed to bring the Treaty of Rome up to date by writing in new articles on technology and the environment but these simply enshrine changes that have already taken place.

But proceeding by stages with what is susceptible to agreement is the right way forward. Mrs Thatcher's argument at Milan against re-writing the Rome Treaty was not to make paper changes but to see what was practicable. She has sensibly conceded Treaty alterations, but everything still depends on the political will of the individual governments and on national parliaments. (The Danish government in particular may meet trouble in the Folketing where it lacks a proper majority.)

In other respects the more modest proposals are realistic. There will be a formal agreement to consult on foreign policy questions on precisely the lines suggested by Britain. But there will be no obligation to reach a common position on any matter. This accords with the reality of a Community of sovereign states. As small foreign policy cooperation unit at Brussels will assist such cooperation.

Finally, the European Parliament, if it can produce an absolute majority of all its members will have the right for this to be formally considered by the Commission and then by the Council of Ministers but, again realistically, the latter will have the last word.

All this makes a sensible if hardly radical package. But the Community has still a hard road to travel to put these improvements into practice and a still harder one towards a solution for the wasteful CAP. What can fairly be said of the proposals of Luxembourg is that they point in the right direction and, eschewing unrealistic visionary declarations, are firmly rooted in the possible.

THE CHANGING OF THE CADETS

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst where officers have been trained like gentlemen for 173 years, is once more under siege. The classical facade of Old Building shimmering in the sunshine on Sovereign's Parade, the scream of drill sergeants, the crashing of boots, the clattering hooves of the adjutant's horse as he rides up the steps at the end of the day - might give the impression that nothing has ever changed and that, all being well, nothing will. This, however, is an illusion. Today's report of new Ministry of Defence reforms is the latest in a long line of changes since the last war.

Until the Arlee government came along, cadets were almost literally divided into officers - those training the army paid for, and gentlemen whose fathers paid for their tuition. This was changed with little regret. Other moves have been

more controversial - like the reduction of academic studies in the early 1970s - a decision which still causes rancour.

Its sporadic reforms reflect partly the academy's need to keep up with the times. But they also indicate the difficulty which the services have in deciding what they want their officer training establishments to do.

That Sandhurst should be or should seek to become, a university in disguise, a temple of academic study, is plainly ridiculous. Its purpose must be to give general vocational training for a career which demands a fast-flow channel for those coming in with degrees, and provision to take higher education elsewhere for those whose education would benefit. But the decision that education in Sandhurst itself should be vocational was surely correct - with the caveat

that cadets should require some knowledge at least of French and German.

There is also an argument for going further and doing more *in situ* training in the units - perhaps with the introduction of training regiments not unlike those already used for junior soldiers with NCO potential. This might allow the time spent at the RMAS to be better used - and even perhaps reduced without any loss of efficiency. It might also have the advantage of diluting the air of elitism which still surrounds the academy. At times it seems more like a finishing school.

The latest proposals are likely to cause howls of outrage. They will certainly need careful examination before being introduced. But the principle of concentrating officer training when and where soldiers need it with always been looked on with favour.

Social work dilemma in child care

From Miss Dorothy Hodgson-Nicoll
Sir, Those of us who are old enough are experiencing an unhappy sense of déjà vu.

It was the historic letter (July 15, 1978) from Lady Allen of Hurwood which led to the setting up of the Curtis committee whose subsequent report resulted in the Children Act of 1948.

We thought in those far-off days that children in care would now be protected; a child had died but others would benefit. For a time things certainly improved and the children's departments of local authorities were able to build up a considerable expertise.

But the implementation of the Seeborn report and the creation of social service departments in 1970 meant the specialization virtually disappeared. Social workers were no longer trained in a specific discipline but underwent a "generic training".

No wonder the public has been so appalled by the recent case of child abuse. The incidence of potential cases is unlikely to have increased, but the number of social workers trained to deal with such cases is certain to have diminished.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY HODGSON-NICOLL,
The Old Dairy,
Arlingham, Gloucester.
December 3.

From Dame Geraldine Aves

Sir, Clearly every effort is about to be made to improve the standards of training for social workers employed by local authorities. It seems worth drawing attention at this juncture to a very material issue, often discussed but not as yet resolved, namely the extreme imbalance of social work often required of those who have direct dealings with clients is regarded less highly than work involving administration and management.

Thus the gifted case worker, who may have developed great insight and expertise in dealing with individual and family situations, remains on a lower salary scale than those with "wider" responsibilities. I met one such last week who had specialised in child care within her "generic" remit. She felt looked down on by her colleagues for preferring to exercise her undoubted ability in dealing with people and not aspiring to higher hierarchical and therefore financial status.

This state of affairs is, of course, not peculiar to social work, but in the latter setting it can have dire results. "Supervision" at one or two removes, however skilled, is no substitute for expert visiting by an experienced professional.

In the study that will follow the tragic Beckford case I hope this highly relevant aspect of the deployment of social workers will

again be looked at. I understand that already a few local authorities do in fact operate a "career grade" which attempts to improve this situation.

It should be possible to introduce generally a grading of professional work which does not distance the best equipped workers from the practical exercise of their knowledge and talents in those situations where this is desperately needed.

Yours faithfully,
GERALDINE AVES,
24 North Grove,
Highgate Village, N6,
December 4.

From Dr John P. Triseliotis

Sir, The Jasmine Beckford inquiry has rightly highlighted, among other things, deficiencies in the training of social workers and has recommended its extension from the current two years to three.

Though this is welcomed, it also has to be recognised that extended education and training by itself is not enough. First, we have to decide on the objectives to be pursued and particularly the balance to be struck between generic and specialist content. At the moment employers and educationists have somewhat differing views on the matter.

Second, the present organisation of the social services demands a high degree of competence to be demonstrated by social workers in a wide range of activities, including work with the mentally ill, the elderly, the handicapped, children and offenders. Preparation on such a scale cannot be wholly provided on a basic course. Newly qualified social workers will still require induction courses put on by their employers before they are asked to undertake highly specialised types of work in an unfamiliar area.

Similarly, their supervisors will need occasional opportunities to update themselves if they are to function on the frontiers of existing knowledge. It is perhaps significant that many of the specialist post-qualifying courses offered around the country are undersubscribed.

Finally, training in the caring professions is not only about acquiring new knowledge and skills, but also of coming to accept that care and control are not incompatible and that keeping families together is a means to an end and not an end in itself. These are matters of continued learning and experience.

Yours faithfully,
J. TRISELIOTIS,
Director of Social Work Education,
University of Edinburgh,
Department of Social
Administration,
Adam Ferguson Building,
George Square,
Edinburgh 8,
December 4.

Okehampton bypass

From Mr John Steel

Sir, Your leading article (November 30) raises two important matters which are the cause of much debate at public inquiries in particular and in the planning world in general.

The first is the extent to which the effect of influencing the decision of the secretaries of state or Parliament; the second is the extent to which, if at all, one can justify changes in planning decisions by reason of the circumstances, in particular changes in Government policy, since the previous planning decision on the issue was taken. Yet to place undue emphasis on these considerations of delay would be effectively to preclude the outcome of the inquiry as no alternative route would be able to be constructed before or at the

same time as the Department of Transport's preferred route. The decision would effectively take itself.

Rightly, the Secretaries of State for Environment and Transport have in the past accepted this argument. In the case of the Okehampton bypass your leader, it seems, seeks to persuade their Lordships otherwise.

A change is called for in the system of route selection for major trunk road improvements, bypasses and motorways. In order to put all alternative routes on an equal footing, the final choice of line must be made at an earlier stage of the planning process.

If a public inquiry were to take place at the initial route selection stage, be limited solely to the choice of line and if thereafter there was any subsequent public inquiry any substantial changes in the line except with the prior consent of the secretary of state, the disadvantages of the current system would virtually if not fully disappear.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STEEL,
4-5 Gray's Inn Square,
Gray's Inn, W.C1,
December 2.

Future of Falklands

From Mr Eric Ogden

Sir, I commend your cautious comments in your editorial, "Debating the Falklands" (November 27). Certainly your assessment of Sir Geoffrey Howe as the safe hands in the South Atlantic was confirmed when a strong delegation from my association and committee met him a few days ago, but he is not well informed on fish.

We do doubt the accuracy of the information on which he bases his over-cautious approach to the need for the declaration of British fishing conservation and management zones around the Falkland Islands. We believe that the information provided by the Foreign Office

grossly underestimates the advantages of such action and greatly exaggerates the possible disadvantages.

Conservation of natural resources and fish stocks and the protection of the environment are challenges which should be put to Argentina and which she would find it difficult to avoid.

The time is long overdue for a British declaration that we will manage and conserve the natural resources of the south-west Atlantic in British conservation zones now.

Sincerely,
ERIC OGDEN, Chairman,
The United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee,
2 Greycoat Place, SW1,
November 27.

English at Durham

From Professor J. R. Watson and others

Sir, We are sorry that Dr Bradley (November 23) has pulled Durham into the discussion of English at

Cambridge. He has clearly enjoyed re-fighting old battles in his retirement; and while this is a pleasure which we would not wish to deny him, we would also point out that English at Durham has changed in the eight years since he left Durham in 1977.

Since that time the two departments of "language" and "literature" have come together to form a School of English: a new syllabus and new courses have been devised, and Durham has become one of the leading centres in the country for the study of applied linguistics; we have a research output that can stand comparison with any department in the country; and we have continued the high standards of teaching and student care for which Durham is famous.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. WATSON,
CHARLES JONES,
T. W. CRAIK,
University of Durham,
School of English,
Elvet Riverside,
New Elvet,
Durham,
November 26.

Doctor's dilemma

From Dr Teresa Adair

Sir, Dr Roger Johnson's experience (November 28) is echoed by my own. The facts of the case were virtually identical.

Again, discussion about the pill before the age of 16 ended in unwanted pregnancy and abortion, but in my case "Tracy", her mother, boyfriend and all concerned were quite certain it was my fault. More significantly, and in sad confusion, so was I.

Yours faithfully,
TERESA ADAIR,
Moorgate,
75 Flax Lane,
Frodsham,
Warrington,
November 29.

Delays in fraud prosecutions

From Mr Rowan Bosworth-Davies

Sir, Your correspondent of November 30, Mr Doiran Williams, states that the failure of the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to prosecute certain allegations of fraud is due "neither to lack of will nor lack of determination, but to lack of evidence."

What Mr Williams does not make clear is whether the lack of evidence is due to a failure on the part of the relevant fraud squad or commercial branch to supply the necessary evidence, or whether the relevant evidence was not ascertainable in the first place.

Having served as a detective in the Metropolitan and City Police company fraud department, I have experienced at first hand the attitude of the Director's office towards the investigation and prosecution of serious allegations of fraud.

I, like many of my ex-colleagues, am only too well aware of the attitude adopted towards allegations of fraud where the persons involved, or the witnesses, are now abroad; the losers are foreigners, or the criminal proceeds have been banked outside the jurisdiction.

Allegations involving persons in public life, members of the legal profession or other City institutions can result in lengthy delays while the evidence available is scrutinised with the finest of tooth combs and their legal advisers given the opportunity to examine and comment upon the worth of the evidence, prior to any decision being made as to whether a prosecution should be sanctioned.

This is not to say that such persons are not entitled to have their cases given every consideration, but the feeling can exist that "there is one law for those who can afford it and another for those less fortunate."

Mr Williams is right when he states that this attitude grows out of a lack of confidence in the performance of the enforcement agencies when they are not seen to prosecute "those whose conduct has been demonstrably and grossly dishonest."

It is acknowledged that the greatest disincentive to the commission of crime is the possibility of getting caught, the second, the likelihood of prosecution.

In my experience, the fraud squads and commercial branches are efficient at catching those responsible for the commission of alleged frauds. It is time that the DPP's office was seen to be as robust in sanctioning prosecution.

Yours faithfully,
ROWAN BOSWORTH-DAVIES,
40 Lyme Farm Road,
Lee, SE12,
December 1.

Violence on television

From Mr D. Holbrook

Sir, In an article yesterday (December 2) on the effects of violence and sex on television you quote Mr Aubrey Singer's guidelines in which he says: "There is no absolute proof of any instance of aggressive behaviour in society being due to an act of violence seen earlier on the television screen."

We have often read court cases in which, it seemed, the violent or perverted acts have been imitations of things portrayed in a violent or perverted work of culture. Besides the evident symbolic connection, the possibility of imitation has been argued by lawyers in such cases.

Earlier this year I asked my MP to enquire from the Home Office whether such evidence from the courts was being collected and studied.

In a letter to Mr Robert Rhodes James, MP, Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State, said: "We do not have resources to search every newspaper for cases where such findings are reported. Judges and magistrates are under no obligation to report cases where they conclude that violent or pornographic images contributed to the commission of a crime." It would not, he declared, be practicable to conduct the kind of monitoring exercise I had suggested.

If there are any cases of clear imitation, then, it seems that we shall never know of them, because no one in authority is studying the question, and Mr Singer cannot know with such certainty that there are none.

Yours &c,
DAVID HOLBROOK,
Denmore Lodge,
Brunswick Gardens,
Cambridge,
December 3.

Museum charges

From Mr Fergus Hobbs

Sir, Mr Barton (November 12) has unwittingly struck the second note of realism regarding the marketing of museum collections. His letter displays both a common misunderstanding of what marketing is and, more seriously, a typical distaste for "trade".

Marketing in leisure and tourism is not selling or advertising. It is an orientation towards the customer and his needs. Thus marketing has a major role to play in decisions about the exhibitions to be placed in museums, their opening hours, the refreshment and shop facilities within museums, pricing etc, as well as the promotional methods used to attract visitors. If museum curators do not regard marketing as one of the key aspects of their job, then frankly they are not the trained professionals Mr Barton describes.

In direct contrast to his view that "expecting them to become shopkeepers will diminish their ability and negate their academic standards", I would suggest that an academic and practical understand-

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 6 1883

Henry Irving (1838-1905) and his company made eight American tours between 1883 and 1901. On all of them his leading lady was Ellen Terry (1848-1928).

MR. IRVING IN PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 5. Mr. Henry Irving last night played Hamlet for the first time in America, at the Chestnut-street Opera-house, Philadelphia, the event being anticipated with deep interest. He acted before the largest audience which he has yet had, the theatre being closely packed.

Mr. Irving's performance in the earlier parts of the piece was received rather coldly by the spectators, but as the play proceeded they warmed to him, beginning to understand him thoroughly, and to appreciate his method. It was a quickly responsive audience, and was at times enthusiastic, repeatedly demanding recalls. Mrs. Ellen Terry's Ophelia was warmly praised.

The impersonation of Hamlet was regarded as a marked success by those present, who uttered many expressions of approval. Mr. Irving, in American opinion, will rank with the greatest Hamlets yet seen. The distinguished actor had anticipated this production with some trepidation, being most anxious about the reception which would be accorded to it by the audience. I asked him immediately after the play how he felt on this subject. He replied:

"You ask my opinion of to-night. It is difficult to say what I feel. I only wish my own audience at home could have seen and heard this house to-night. Actors regard success in Hamlet as the blue ribbon of the stage. You may therefore imagine that I am more than delighted that the first time I played Hamlet in America I met such enthusiasm as was shown to-night. Neither Miss Terry nor I ever acted to a more fervid house. We felt it more difficult to-night than ever to resist the scene calls demanded. I can only compare to-night to the first time I played Hamlet at the Lyceum."

The leading Philadelphia newspapers publish elaborate criticisms of the performance. The Philadelphia Public Ledger says:

"Mr. Irving presented a Hamlet which though very different from Booth, Fechter, or Deavenport, was entirely consistent with itself and with the play - the most visible, picturesque, lovable Hamlet that has been seen on the stage. The fullest variety was given to the part; it was made dramatically interesting, and, in spite of the actor's peculiarities of style, it was a most peculiar, intelligent study, more than realizing our expectations. There was a sense of harmony and fullness about the whole performance, making it thoroughly enjoyable."

"Miss Terry made an admirable Ophelia. The scene showing her insanity was represented with marked sweetness and delicacy. But the most striking feature was her play when returning Hamlet's gifts, whereby she expressed the love she bore him. The scenic display was not pretentious but in all the scenes was the mark of realism. They thrived with life, while overshadowing all was the spiritual influence that is the key to Hamlet's strange actions. Mr. Irving realized Goethe's idea of a born moral nature, thoughtful, of a most moral nature, without strength of nerve to carry a hero, overcome by the responsibility put upon him by the vision, whose message he alternately accepts and doubts."

The Philadelphia Times says: "If Mr. Irving's powers of expression equalled his powers of perception, his Hamlet would deserve to be called great. Through the first two acts he seems to be struggling to convey the idea of the character, with no other result than a strange confusion of mannerisms. No one closely watching him could doubt that he knew what he was doing. He had method and purpose in his seemingly wild action. Those following Mr. Irving attentively to the end will agree that his work in its entirety is his own justification. Thus we shall find his Hamlet essentially natural and human. Its perfections are largely those of his own individuality, including both his merits and faults. His conception is acute, consistent, truthful, and poetical, rather than largely tragic. His expression is very unequal, but as a work of intelligence and faithfulness, illuminated at times with details of uncommon brilliancy, sometimes clouded with theatrical exaggeration, it is entitled to the highest respect."

The Philadelphia Press says: "The performance is disappointing, though perhaps so in a less degree to those appreciating the subtlety of the conception. But consistent, thoughtful, scholarly as it was, it failed to impress the audience as it should. Mr. Irving is always the melancholy Dane. His madness dates from his first appearance on the stage. He is infirm of purpose. There was not a speech that fully met expectation. His mannerisms were conspicuous; the performance brings out nearly all the faults and few of the merits of the great actor."

International trade

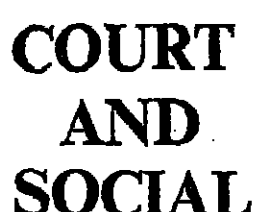
From Mr Michael Firth

Sir, On visiting the World Travel Market at Olympia yesterday, I was given a pen by the English Tourist Board, bearing the slogan: "England Means Business". The pen was made in Italy.

Yours faithfully,
FERGUS HOBBS, Director,
The L&R Leisure Group,
Albert Bridge House,
127 Albert Bridge Road, SW11.

International trade

From Mr Michael Firth
Sir, On visiting the World Travel Market at Olympia yesterday, I was given a pen by the English Tourist Board, bearing the slogan: "England Means Business". The pen was made in Italy.



Cancer Research at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton.
His Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

A memorial service for Mrs Elaine Blond will be held today at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, St John's Wood, at noon.

Dr T. L. H. Walford
and Miss C. L. O'Flaherty

The engagement is announced between Thomas, elder son of Mr and Mrs M. Walford, of Baughurst, Hampshire, and Catherine, daughter of the late Brigadier D. O'Flaherty and Mrs O'Flaherty, of

The Right Rev John Waine, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, who was yesterday appointed Bishop of Chelmsford, with his family at Dean's Yard, Westminster. From left: Simon, aged 16, Stephen, aged 26, a curate in Wolverhampton, the Bishop, Ian, aged 24, and the Bishop's wife, Pat (Photograph: Graeme Cookson).

ave known in advance what to expect. So Monaghan and Corcoran examined the way in which a defender carried out those experiments. His method suggests that he had no particular theory in mind when he started the work.

That conclusion was supported by a scrutiny of his correspondence. However, it was possible that he

are known in advance what to expect. So Monaghan and Corcos re-examined the way in which *Memdi* carried out those experiments. His method suggests that he was in particular a theory in mind when he started the work.

That conclusion was supported by a scrutiny of his correspondence. However, it was possible that he developed the theory after the first two trials and only adjusted subsequent results. In that case the first trials should be closer to the perfect ratio than the earlier ones.

Using a statistical test known as a *chi-squared analysis*, Monaghan and Corcos dispose of that idea. *Chi-squared* tests tell the investigator how probable it is that the sample result differs from the

As The Macallan permeates to the very extremities of the civilised world, we are pleased to receive more and more anecdotes relating to our cherished malt whisky.

The following gratifying, if rueful, tale hails from the landlord of a pub in the hinterland of Kent.

● A customer came into my bar.

"Good evening, sir. What'll you have?" I enquired.

"That's very kind of you," said he. "*I'll have a Macallan.*"

He started to drink. I asked him to pay.

"No," he replied. "*You asked me what I'd have. I took that as an invitation to have one on you.*"

He drank up and left.

About six months later he came in again. I asked him to leave, saying he would not catch me twice. He at once denied *ever using my bar before*, saying he'd been working abroad the past three years.

"Incredible," said I. "*You must have a double.*"

"Thank you," said he. "*Make it The Macallan.*" 9

This topical twist to a familiar ruse was kindly furnished by Mr Frank Vickery of The Vickers Arms, South Willesborough, Ashford, Kent.

THE MACALLAN. THE MALT.

Among the guests were:
 Maj. Justice Lawton, General Sir Roland
 May, Mr. James Mount-Smith, Major-
 General J.D.C. Funn, Captain A.C.Y. Thorpe,
 W. Colston C.A.Ewing, and Lieutenant-
 Colonel J.R. Bradley.

was born on June 12, 1930 and was educated at the RN College, Dartmouth and Greenwich. He served in the Navy from 1947 to 1961.

He was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1959 and was admitted to the Cyprus Bar.

His wife, Nancy, has a son and a daughter.

Lucy Hutchison, wife of Kenneth Hutchison, CBE, FRC, died on December 2. She was Dorothea Marion Eva, daughter of Commander B. W. Black RN.

Christopher Richard Hiliard, the son of Dr. F. M. Hiliard, was born on June 12, 1930 and graduated at the RN College, Portsmouth and Greenwich. He served in the Navy from 1947 to 1961.

He was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1962 and

He married in 1955 Ann Margaret, only daughter of Mark Maiber. They had a son and a daughter.

Lady Hutchison, wife of Kenneth Hutchison, CBE, FRCS, died on December 2. She was 82.

Dorothy Marion Eys, daughter of

was born on June 12, 1930 and educated at the RN College, Dartmouth and Greenwich. He served in the Navy from 1947 to 1961.

He was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1959 and was admitted to the Cyprus Bar

Tasty Hutchison, wife of Kenneth Hutchison, CBE, FRCS, died on December 2, 1986. She was the daughter of Dorothea Marion Eva, daughter of Commander B. W. Black RN.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Iron in Minister's sweet words to accountants

The accountancy profession has a strong view on fraud: it is against it. Palpably this is not enough. Michael Howard, the Corporate and Consumer Affairs Minister, made it crystal clear yesterday that the Government expects much more than simple lip service in its own fight to clampdown on corporate fraud. He played a Mark Antony role as he addressed yesterday's conference on fraud organized by the Institute of Chartered Accountants. The tone was very much "I come to praise the accountancy profession not to bury it." But the threat lurking behind the amiable lines was unmistakable: either the auditor takes a more positive role in the fight against fraud or the Government will legislate to make sure that he does.

With the Financial Services Bill, due to be published later this month, containing significant anti-fraud measures, there is no more time for working parties, discussion documents and draft guidelines. The accountancy profession is required to give a firm commitment to positive action.

Mr Howard wants that action to take the form of an agreement by auditors to accept that they have a responsibility to report cases of fraud or suspected fraud to the regulatory authorities. That is a complete contravention of the auditor's treasured principle of client confidentiality.

There was much huffing and puffing from the institute's hierarchy at this suggestion but it must surely recognize that it can no longer hide behind a belief that the only crime which the auditor is

legally bound to report is treason. Between 1981 and 1984 reported fraud increased by 254 per cent. So far this year there has been a 47 per cent increase and this may just be the tip of the iceberg.

Mr Howard accepted that in some cases where a fraud is perpetrated by an employee then it would be appropriate for the auditor simply to bring this to the attention of the management. But he continued: "There will be some cases - where for instance the continued existence of vital documents may be in question or there is a real danger of directors running off with large amounts of money - when giving the client advance warning will amount to nothing less than a tip-off."

The question of client confidentiality is sensitive, although it must be remembered that it is the company's shareholders whose interest the auditor is really trying to protect and to whom he makes his audit report. In the end, public interest must take precedence over the confidentiality principle. In accepting that the accountancy profession should have the full backing of the authorities. Only last week, Commander Malcolm Campbell, head of the Fraud Squad said that it was only right that auditors should be given the full protection of the law in any breach of confidentiality.

In the end they have no choice. The Government will have its way and the increased responsibilities which will be introduced for the auditors of financial service companies will be extended to cover all companies.

Plessey surveys the climb

Sir John Clark, deep down, is not averse to a takeover of Plessey, on certain conditions and not by Lord Weinstock and GEC. He is aware that Plessey is slipping down the mountain. The effort needed to arrest the fall and begin climbing is probably beyond the capability of the existing Plessey board and senior management.

In these circumstances a huge responsibility rests on the experienced shoulders of non-executive directors, Lord Pennock and Sir Alastair Frame. Sir John Clark can dominate his executive colleagues whenever he wishes but they are in a more independent position. Ray Pennock especially has come to exercise a considerable influence with Sir John. This has led, for example to a diminishing role for the other Clark brother, Michael.

Plessey's defensive state of mind is apparent in its counter-suggestion that GEC might like to sell Plessey its share of the System X contract. It is an absurd suggestion which would be given consideration only if the entire GEC board had gone out of its collective mind. Abandoning System X would not only deprive GEC of the technical core of its telecommunications business, it would also undermine to the point of extinction other separate but related telecommunications activities, like private switching equipment and information technology.

Sir John Clark's second, seemingly constructive suggestion - cross frontier alliances - while ultimately making sense, makes very little sense if they involve, as they must at present, relatively small UK groups taking small stakes in foreign "partners" which would completely dominate them.

Plessey shares closed yesterday at 172p, some 12p above GEC's offering price, while GEC shares also closed at 172p. Instructively, the razor sharp Warburg Investment Management has disposed of one million Plessey shares at 177p.

From about mid-Summer onwards, a school of electronics and telecommunications analysts, headed largely by Chris Wells of de Zoete & Bevan, who happen to

be brokers to GEC, have maintained that Plessey was a raging sell. Mr Wells saw profits falling next year from an estimated £152 million this year to perhaps £130 million. The placing power of De Zoete, ably assisted by other bears, notably James Capel, helps to drive Plessey shares down from around 200p to a low of perhaps 125p.

Among the bears, Bill Coleman of James Capel suffered the ultimate misfortune: he put out a note advocating selling Plessey on Monday, the day before the bid was announced.

Both Mr Wells and Mr Coleman are unbowed, they claim that the deterioration in Plessey's trading fundamentals, which had motivated their sell recommendations, had also prompted the approach from Lord Weinstock.

In the opposing school, stand the Scrimgeour Vickers electronics team, headed by Mike Styles, who reckons the shares are cheap up to 200p. He sees profits rising next year to close on £175 million.

Ferranti ahead

Ferranti made a small, but positive contribution to the debate yesterday with its interim figures. These showed profits marginally ahead for the six months' trading up to the end of September, at £18.9 million, and a relatively encouraging increase in the interim dividend of 6 per cent to 0.55p.

The eye-catching aspect of the figures is the dismal performance of the electronics division, where poor demand is mainly responsible for a fall in profits up perhaps 50 per cent, margins are apparently well down. In the capital electronics area, Plessey too is very prominent.

Ferranti talks of an upturn in demand which is starting to filter through to profits, but whose material impact will be delayed until next year. Another sign perhaps of the timeliness of Lord Weinstock's initiative.

US 'needs' 10% fall in dollar

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

The dollar needs to fall by at least another 10 per cent to help cut America's trade deficit, Dr Clayton Yeutter, President Reagan's trade representative, said yesterday.

Speaking from Washington in a satellite interview with foreign journalists, he urged more action by Europe and Japan to stimulate their economies, citing the European economies in particular as not doing enough to generate faster growth.

Dr Yeutter, however, predicted that the White House would hold the line against Congressional pressure for protectionist measures. The President would veto the Textile Bill. "Few if any protectionist bills will ever become law," he said.

Dr Yeutter welcomed the lifting by Britain of its veto on the US-EEC steel agreement. After some weeks of negotiation, a deal has been struck which will allow the British Steel Corporation to export a minimum of 200,000 tonnes a year of semi-finished steel to Tuscaloosa Steel, Alabama.

The Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday that Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State, had been closely involved in the negotiations and that the outcome had averted the risk of a major steel crisis.

'Same terms' at Lloyd's

By Alison Eadie

The successor to Mr Ian Hay Davison, who has resigned as chief executive of Lloyd's, would be offered the same terms of reference as those accepted by Mr Davison, Mr Peter Miller, chairman of Lloyd's, said yesterday.

Mr Davison resigned after an attempt by the Council of Lloyd's to downgrade the office of chief executive. Mr Miller said the terms of reference were likely to be expanded.

He added that the establishment of the working party looking into the structure of the corporation and office of chief executive was triggered by concern among council members that the corporation of Lloyd's was not running as smoothly as it should be.

The £22 million accounting error in the publication of the 1982 global report and accounts last September caused great embarrassment.

Singapore market opens with £300m slide in share values

From Paul Routledge, Singapore

Singapore's stock exchange has its worst day yesterday when trading restarted after an unprecedented three-day suspension.

Brokers' first estimate put the market fall at \$5.5 billion (more than £300 million). Other calculations took the losses much higher.

The slide was right across the board, with even blue-chip issues like Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation taking a hammering.

At the close of trading, the Straits Times index registered a record fall of 82.27 points to 609.54. The big tumble - of nearly 80 points - came during the morning, and in afternoon trading the index briefly dipped below the psychologically important 600 level. A late rally moved the market up from what brokers described as ridiculously low quotes.

Singapore's "black Thursday" was mirrored on the stock exchange in Kuala Lumpur, also open for business again after a similar shutdown. Share prices there tumbled by 20 to 30 per cent. The KLESE industrial index closed at 399.57, down 36.65.

Rajahmundry Industries, controlled by the family of Mr Daim Zainuddin, the Malaysian Finance Minister, was the most active share in Kuala Lumpur, with the price declining 73 cents to 269 on a turnover of 982,000 shares.

These sharp falls prompted fears among some brokers in the Malaysian capital that further hectic trading will halve the value of shares from pre-suspension levels in the days to come.

The business crisis in Singapore is now creating political repercussions. After a week of

ministerial silence, the opposition Workers' Party urged the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, to set up a commission of inquiry to investigate "all the circumstances that led to the stock market being brought to the verge of collapse".

The exchanges in the two capitals - which are closely linked - were ordered closed until further notice by the authorities on Sunday after the industrial conglomerate, Pan-Electric, went into receivership with debts of S\$350 million, almost half that figure composed of forward trading in shares.

When the exchanges opened yesterday, forward trading was banned.

Mr J B Jeyaretnam, opposition MP and secretary-general of the Workers' Party, said: "The question that must be on everybody's lips but is not

asked is whether the Monetary Authority of Singapore is covering up for some firms and trying to protect them. To whom does the Government have a duty - Singapore or the stockbroking firms who are responsible?"

The Singapore authorities are investigating the activities of Pan-Electric and may bring charges. It is also understood that its former managing director, Mr Peter Tham, has disappeared and is believed to be in Argentina.

On the London Stock Exchange shares rallied towards the close, and the FT 30 share index, at one time down more than 17 points, closed at 1,110.4 points, a fall of 5.4 points. Buying for the next account and a firm Wall Street start helped the late strength.

Argyll faces legal action on whisky

By Jeremy Warner
Business Correspondent

Allegations that an offshoot of Mr James Gulliver's Argyll Group passed off foreign spirit as Scotch whisky have been made by the Scotch Whisky Association in conjunction with two of its member companies, including a subsidiary of Argyll's takeover target, Distillers.

The timing of the action in the Court of Session in Edinburgh is being viewed with considerable suspicion by Argyll, which is in the fifth day of its £1.9 billion bid for Distillers.

Mr David Webster, finance director of Argyll, said: "We expect this sort of sniping, which is a part of their campaign to have the offer referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission."

The action involves a £5,000 shipment of whisky to Panama which was allegedly mixed with local spirit and sold as Scotch. The SWA, which is pursuing the action in association with Macdonald Greenlees, the "Old Part" offshoot of Distillers, described its timing as "pure coincidence and the result of many months of careful investigation."

The action is against Glen Nevis Distillery Company, Barton International and Arnel-garnated Distilled Products, all subsidiaries of Argyll, and was lodged only a few days before Argyll lodged its bid.

Mr John Macphail, chairman of the Scotch Whisky Association was urged to give support to the Distillers campaign against the bid at an informal lunch in Edinburgh yesterday with Mr John Connell, the Distillers chairman.

The SWA is normally neutral when there is a takeover bid for one of its members.

World prospects promising, says Lawson

By Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

World prospects look "very promising" in many respects, the Chancellor told the annual meeting of the Foreign Bankers' Association yesterday. Mr Nigel Lawson said that the September agreement between the Group of Five top finance ministers in New York had "proved successful" in bringing down the dollar, and that as a result "the threat of protectionism has now somewhat receded."

The Chancellor said he expected growth in the main industrial countries to average about 3 per cent this year.

He said that financial policies were designed to support monetary demand as much as to control it, and that the "overall approach to policy" in Britain was a guarantee against inadequate growth of demand.

None of the constraints in the economy that lead to recession Mr Lawson said "are evident or appear imminent". However, he stressed his support for the plan outlined by Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary for dealing with the international debt problem.

Threat to plan, page 25

GEC urges Plessey to discuss takeover

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The General Electric Company last night renewed its £1.6 billion bid approach to its electronics competitor, Plessey, with a fresh plea to sit down to talks about an agreed takeover by GEC.

It effectively brushed aside Plessey's counter-offer to buy out GEC's interest in the System X digital telephone exchange system developed for British Telecommunications.

Plessey made the offer after its board declared unanimously that Plessey should retain its independence.

Plessey is prime contractor

for System X, with GEC also a supplier.

But there are increasing signs that GEC is prepared to press ahead with a contested bid if Plessey rebuffs this new appeal for talks.

There is continued speculation that Racal Electronics, the data communications company which is also a big defence contractor, may step in to help Plessey defend itself against GEC.

GEC shares ended the day down 4p to 172p, and Plessey's unchanged the day before, declined 2p to 172p.

£21m Hammerson deal

Hammerson is to buy out the minority holding in two of its Australian properties for shares worth £21 million. The deal means that Hammerson's entire Australian portfolio is now wholly owned and Mr Sydney Mason, chairman, says that this will enable the company to refurbish and refinance the properties. He would like to buy more in New South Wales but after the latest deal, a tenth of Hammerson's shares will be held in Australia and this is a prelude to the company seeking a Stock Exchange listing in Sydney and Melbourne.

condition that Hammerson will soon transfer 18 per cent of its Australian investments into native hands.

In its efforts to fend off the takeover from Elders IXL of Australia, Allied-Lyons has stressed that the Federal Investment Review Board places heavy restrictions on British companies trying to do business in Australia.

After the latest deal, a tenth of Hammerson's shares will be held in Australia and this is a prelude to the company seeking a Stock Exchange listing in Sydney and Melbourne.

IN BRIEF

Hanson lifts profits 49%

Hanson Trust lifted pretax profits by 49 per cent in the year to September.

The company, whose acquisitions have ranged from the Ever Ready battery company to Alders department stores boosted earnings per share by 41 per cent over the year. Cash per share now stands at 86p and Hanson seems likely to embark on a major British purchase, probably Bowater, as soon as the legal action over its bid for SCM in New York is decided.

The final dividend rises by 34 per cent to 2.85p and there is a one-for-three bonus issue.

Hanson Industries, the American side of the business, lifted profits by 28 per cent to £131.7 million despite a 14 per cent decline in the dollar.

Bass improves

Bass lifted profits from £218 million to £255 million before tax in the year to September 30. Turnover was up from £2,252 million to £2,411 million and the final dividend is 11p, up from 9.6p.

Tempus, page 21

Dee profits up

Dee Corporation, the food retailer, increased pretax profits from £27.5 million to £41.1 million in the six months to November 9. The interim dividend is up from 1.8p to 2.8p.

Tempus, page 21

Shares in Laura Ashley went to a 59p premium in first dealings. The closing price was 187p, with a 52p premium. Shares in Abbot Mead Vickers rose to a 28p premium before closing at 203p, a 23p premium.

Tese bid fails

The management buyout bid for Thorn EMI Screen Entertainment (Tese), the films division of Thorn EMI, has failed. Mr Gary Dartnall, chief executive of Tese, conceded defeat after Thorn failed to respond to a new offer of about £100 million.

Bid decision

The Government will announce today whether the £1.8 billion takeover bid by Elders IXL for Allied-Lyons is to be referred to the Monopolies Commission. Yesterday, Allied shares slipped back 2p to 278p, still well ahead of Elders 255p cash offer.

ANNOUNCEMENT

AMERADA HESS LIMITED
HAS ACQUIRED THE ENTIRE ISSUED
SHARE CAPITAL OF:
MONSANTO OIL COMPANY
OF THE U.K. INC.

WHICH WILL TRADE
UNDER THE NAME OF:

AMERADA HESS DEVELOPMENT
LIMITED



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

MR A MULCARE

AMERADA HESS LIMITED, 2 STEPHEN STREET, LONDON W1P 1PL. TELEPHONE 01-636 7766.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	1110.4 (-5.4)
FT All Share	675.97 (-3.79)
FT Govt Securities	83.43 (-0.33)
FT-SE 100	1395.3 (-4.3)
Burgundy	28.38
Datastream USM	107.84 (-0.45)
New York	
Dow Jones	1481.73 (+7.34)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	12864.11 (+52.91)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1689.91 (-7.05)
Australia	
Sydney AO	986.2 (-1.4)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1748.8 (+20.6)
Brussels	
General	946.56 (-4.28)
Paris CAC	249.8 (+4.2)
S&A General	471.80 (+4.40)

GOLD

London fixing	\$322.50
am \$322.50	\$2217.75
close	\$322.50-\$323.00
218.25	
New York	
Comex \$322.65	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISE:	
Edinburgh Oil	40p +4p
Oscoronic Group	37p +3p
Consultants (C&F)	72p +4p
Aberdeen Steak	60p +3p
Benlox Hds	20p +1p
Remore	21p +1p
Rain Inds	24p +1p
Welpac	13.50p +0.50p
Selsy (C.H.)	26.25p +0.75p
Spring Ram Corp	311p +8p
Watson (R. Kelvin)	230p +5p
Gaskell Broadm	103p +2p
Quick (H&J)	52p +1p
Coloroll	164p +3p

FALLS:

Audiocronic	3.50p -0.50p
Tranwood Group	10.50p -0.50p
Micro Bus. Sys.	47p -2p
Kalsnaco	28p -1p
Manganese Bronze	55p -2p
Pearson (C.H.)	700p -25p
Barr & Wal. Arm. "A"	118p -4p
Goal Petroleum	66p -2p
T.V. Servs. Int.	165p -5p
World	67p -2p
D.J. Stry. Alarm	68p -2p
Yellerton Int.	35p -1p

CURRENCIES

London:	
£ \$1.4795 (-0.0050)	
£ DM 3.7347 (-0.0076)	
£ Sfr 3.1077 (-0.0032)	
£ FF 11.3888 (-0.0149)	
£ Yen 300.84 (-0.23)	
£ Index: 91.0 (-0.2)	
New York (Latest):	
£ \$1.4785	
£ DM 3.7190	
£ Sfr 3.1077 (+0.4)	
£ ECU 20.591018	
SDR 20.735028	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 11 1/2%	
3-month interbank: 11 1/2%-11 3/4%	
3-month eligible bills:	
buying rate: 11 1/2%-11 3/4%	
US:	
Prime Rate: 9.50%	
Federal Funds: 8 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills: 7.23-7.21%	
30-year bond price: 96 1/2%-99 1/2%	

Early rise for Dow

The Dow Jones industrial average was up six points to 1490. Advances led declines by three to two on turnover of 18.18 million shares.

ATT led the actives, down $\frac{1}{4}$ to 23 $\frac{1}{4}$. Texaco was second, up $\frac{1}{4}$ to 32. The company was scheduled to be in court seeking to have a \$10.5 billion (about £7.1 billion) damage award overturned.

Ford was up 4 to 56. The company's president, Mr. Harold Poling, told newsmen that the company would continue to buy new shares of its stock, including new classes of stock for leading subsidiaries.

Mr. Marvin Katz, a trader at Sanfco C Bernstein Co, said buying from European investors and the Federal Reserve are factors in the early advance.

● The Federal Reserve is expected to enter the US government securities market to buy Treasury bills in order to raise reserves temporarily.

Analysts are divided about whether this will be a direct Treasury supply, accomplished through the arrangement of a new reserve agreement, or an indirect one via customer repurchases.

Interbank money opened on 12 - 11 7/8 per cent yesterday, but soon turned easier. Soon after the forecast, it slipped to 11 1/2 - 1 1/4 per cent and by midday it was down to 11 1/4 - 1/2 per cent.	Local Authority Bonds 7 years 12-11 1/2 3 months 12-11 1/2 9 months 11-11 1/2
The trend persisted into the afternoon, reaching 11 - 10 per cent as the close approached. The last rate of the day was 12 - 11 1/2 per cent. The periods had a quiet day.	Sterling Cds (%) 1 month 11-11 1/2 3 months 11-11 1/2 6 months 11-11 1/2
	Dollar Cds (%) 1 month 8-15-8-10 3 months 8-15-8-10 6 months 8-15-8-10
	EURO-CURRENCY
	Dollar 7 years 8-8 1/2 3 months 8-8 1/2

Bare Rates %		Deutschmark %
Cleaning Banks 1½		7 days 4½-4¾
Clearing Banks 1½		8 months 4¼-4½
Discount 12		French Franc %
Discount Market 6 month's		7 days 9¾-10
Overnight High 1½ Low 1		8 months 10¼-10½
Week End 7½-11½		Swiss Franc %
		7 days 2-2½
		8 months 4-4½
		Yen %
Treasury Bills (Discount %) Selling		7 days 8¾-9
3 months 1½	2 months 1½	8 months 7½-8
3 months 1½	3 months 1½	
		GOLD
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)		Kruggerand (per cent)
3 months 1½-11½	11½-11½	\$204.60-256.75 (\$251.00)
6 months 1½-11½	6 months 10-10½	Sovereigns (new)
12 months 1½-11½	12 months 10-10½	\$726.79-726.95 (\$575.75)
		*Excludes VAT
Trade Bills (Discount %)		
1 month 12	2 months 11½	
3 months 11½	6 months 11½	
Interest %		
Overnight open 1½-1½	close 12-12	
wk 11½-11½	6 months 11½-11½	
1 month 11½	3 months 11½	
3 months 11½	12 months 11½-11½	
Local Authority Deposits (%)		
1 day 11	7 days 11	
1 month 11	3 months 11	
3 months 11	12 months 10	
		ECONOMICS
Flood Rate Starting Europe		
Average Interest rate		
1986 1988 1989		
inclusive 11.81 per cent		

Washington yesterday.
Heavy hedging and speculative interest generated by firmness in the physical markets lifted volume in the London wheat futures market.

360.50	60.25	ALUMINUM	
257.08	58.76	Cash	6
252.00	51.75	Three months	8
242.50	42.00	Vol	
238.00	32.76	Tone	
224.00	23.50		
226.00	25.25	NICKEL	
225.26	25.00	Cash	
227.00	26.00	Three months	
	2880	Vol	

NETAL EXCHANGE		MEAT AND LIVELI	
Price	Price	COMMERCE	
November figures	November figures	Average fatstock	
per 100 lbs. live	per 100 lbs. live	representative	
WT & Co. Ltd. report	WT & Co. Ltd. report	December	
GRADING	GRADING	Gilt Cows, 82.72p per lb	Gilt Cows, 82.72p per lb
941.00-942.00	941.00-942.00	(+1.11)	(+1.11)
858.00-860.00	858.00-860.00	Gilt Sows, 156.87p per lb	Gilt Sows, 156.87p per lb
35.750	35.750	at +12.70	at +12.70
PRIME	PRIME	Gilt Pigs, 82.43p per lb	Gilt Pigs, 82.43p per lb
918.00-922.00	918.00-922.00	(-0.81)	(-0.81)
940.00-941.00	940.00-941.00		
CATBOARDS	CATBOARDS	Engaged and Waiters	Engaged and Waiters
271.00-272.00	271.00-272.00	Cattle nos., up 23.5p	Cattle nos., up 23.5p
277.50-278.00	277.50-278.00	price, 95.48d (-1.17)	price, 95.48d (-1.17)
2.520	2.520	Sheep nos., up 24.3p	Sheep nos., up 24.3p
STANDARD	STANDARD	price, 105.05p (-13.48)	price, 105.05p (-13.48)
445.00-448.00	445.00-448.00	Pig nos., down 5.1p	Pig nos., down 5.1p
GRADING	GRADING	price, 52.45p (-0.55)	price, 52.45p (-0.55)
426.00-461.00	426.00-461.00	Scotlands	Scotlands
454.00-455.00	454.00-455.00	Cattle, up 18.4p	Cattle, up 18.4p
5.275	5.275	price, 87.80p (-0.78)	price, 87.80p (-0.78)
PRIME	PRIME	Sheep nos., up 41.0p	Sheep nos., up 41.0p
428.00-429.00	428.00-429.00	price, 150.20p (+0.30)	price, 150.20p (+0.30)
430.00-431.00	430.00-431.00	Pig nos., down 11.0p	Pig nos., down 11.0p
42.34	42.34	price, 61.47p (-0.04)	price, 61.47p (-0.04)
Quot	Quot		
408.00-409.00	408.00-409.00	LONDON GRADING	LONDON GRADING
420.00-421.00	420.00-421.00	2 per tonne	2 per tonne
430.00-431.00	430.00-431.00	March	March
42.34	42.34	Jan	Jan
Quot	Quot	Feb	Feb
408.00-409.00	408.00-409.00	Mar	Mar
420.00-421.00	420.00-421.00	Nov	Nov
AB	AB	Dec	Dec
408.00-409.00	408.00-409.00	Jan	Jan
420.00-421.00	420.00-421.00	Feb	Feb
AB	AB	Mar	Mar
408.00-409.00	408.00-409.00	Nov	Nov
420.00-421.00	420.00-421.00	Dec	Dec
AB	AB	Jan	Jan
408.00-409.00	408.00-409.00	Feb	Feb
420.00-421.00	420.00-421.00	Mar	Mar
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AB	AB	Nov	Nov
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420.00-421.00	420.00-421.00	Jan	Jan
AB	AB	Feb	Feb
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420.00-421.00	420.00-421.00	Nov	Nov
AB	AB	Dec	Dec
408.00-409.00	408.00-409.00	Jan	Jan
420.00-421.00	420.00-421.00	Feb	Feb
AB	AB	Mar	Mar
408.00-409.00	408.00-409.00	Nov	Nov
420.00-421.00	420.00-421.00	Dec	Dec
AB	AB	Jan	Jan
408.00-409.00	408.00-409.00	Feb	Feb
420.00-421.00	420.00-421.00	Mar	

Sterling came under some pressure early yesterday as operators decided to go short of the currency in case of disagreement at the Opec weekend meeting.

The pound fell as low \$1.4740 at one time, but rallied to 1.4795 at the close — a loss of half a cent on balance.

It was the same story on the Continent, with sterling falling to below DM 3.7300, before

mid-afternoon.

Overall, the market was quiet with currencies moving within narrow bands.

The dollar, with so economic pointers to influence the market, showed no real trend.

STEVE HIGGINS AND EDWARD RATES

[illegible]

Sterling	Open	High	Low	Close
1000000	88.45	88.45	88.41	88.45
1000000	89.10	89.11	88.98	89.10
1000000	89.44	89.45	89.37	89.44
1000000	89.51	89.51	89.48	89.51
Total open interest 8124				

Eurolidder	91.85	91.56	91.82	91.85
total open interest 21355	91.73	91.75	91.89	91.89
total open interest 21355	91.50	91.50	91.43	91.43
total open interest 21355	81-08	81-15	81-04	81-04
total open interest 21355	81-25	81-07	79-26	79-26
total open interest 21355	NT	NT	NT	NT
total open interest 1104	91-17	91-17	91-10	91-10
total open interest 1104	91-29	91-29	91-22	91-22
total open interest 1104	NT	NT	NT	NT
total open interest 5609	1119-00	1112-06	1111-20	1111-20
total open interest 5609	1112-04	1112-06	1111-20	1111-20
total open interest 5609	NT	NT	NT	NT
total open interest 5609	NT	NT	NT	NT
total open interest 5609	140.55	140.75	138.85	140.75
total open interest 5609	141.40	142.40	140.25	141.40

Dollar	call	87-79
7 days 81-81 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 month 81-81 $\frac{1}{2}$	
3 months 81-81 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 month 81-81 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Deutschmark	call	5-4
7 days 43-43 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 month 47-43 $\frac{1}{2}$	
3 months 43-43 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 months 41-43 $\frac{1}{2}$	
French Franc	call	9-9

7 days	9 ^h -9 ^a	1 month	10 ^h -9 ^a
3 months	10 ^h -9 ^a 10 ^h 10 ^h	6 months	11 ^h -10 ^a
Swiss Franc		1 year	2 ^h -11 ^a
7 days	2-2	1 month	10 ^h -9 ^a
3 months	2-4	6 months	4 ^h -4
Yes		call	7 ^h -5 ^a
7 days	5 ^h -5 ^a	1 month	7 ^h -5 ^a
3 months	7 ^h -7 ^a	6 months	7 ^h -7 ^a

GOLD

Krugersmud (per coin)

\$500.50-525.00 (\$219.00-220.25)

Sovereigns (new):

\$76.25-79.25 (\$52.75-55.50)

*Excludes VAT

ECGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme

Average reference rate for interest period
 1985 to 31 December, 1985
 inclusive: 11.612 per cent.

1985						1986						1987					
High	Low	Company	Price	Gross Div Yld Ctgs Pence % P/E		High	Low	Company	Price	Gross Div Yld Ctgs Pence % P/E		High	Low	Company	Price	Gross Div Yld Ctgs Pence % P/E	
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

[illegible]

575	285	Ally & Brothers	529	23.8	4.8
576	286	Ally & Brothers	530
577	287	Ally & Brothers	531
578	288	Ally & Brothers	532
579	289	Ally & Brothers	533
580	290	Ally & Brothers	534
581	291	Ally & Brothers	535
582	292	Ally & Brothers	536
583	293	Ally & Brothers	537
584	294	Ally & Brothers	538
585	295	Ally & Brothers	539
586	296	Ally & Brothers	540
587	297	Ally & Brothers	541
588	298	Ally & Brothers	542
589	299	Ally & Brothers	543
590	300	Ally & Brothers	544
591	301	Ally & Brothers	545
592	302	Ally & Brothers	546
593	303	Ally & Brothers	547
594	304	Ally & Brothers	548
595	305	Ally & Brothers	549
596	306	Ally & Brothers	550
597	307	Ally & Brothers	551
598	308	Ally & Brothers	552
599	309	Ally & Brothers	553
600	310	Ally & Brothers	554
601	311	Ally & Brothers	555
602	312	Ally & Brothers	556
603	313	Ally & Brothers	557
604	314	Ally & Brothers	558
605	315	Ally & Brothers	559
606	316	Ally & Brothers	560
607	317	Ally & Brothers	561
608	318	Ally & Brothers	562
609	319	Ally & Brothers	563
610	320	Ally & Brothers	564
611	321	Ally & Brothers	565
612	322	Ally & Brothers	566
613	323	Ally & Brothers	567
614	324	Ally & Brothers	568
615	325	Ally & Brothers	569
616	326	Ally & Brothers	570
617	327	Ally & Brothers	571
618	328	Ally & Brothers	572
619	329	Ally & Brothers	573
620	330	Ally & Brothers	574
621	331	Ally & Brothers	575
622	332	Ally & Brothers	576
623	333	Ally & Brothers	577
624	334	Ally & Brothers	578
625	335	Ally & Brothers	579
626	336	Ally & Brothers	580
627	337	Ally & Brothers	581
628	338	Ally & Brothers	582
629	339	Ally & Brothers	583
630	340	Ally & Brothers	584
631	341	Ally & Brothers	585
632	342	Ally & Brothers	586
633	343	Ally & Brothers	587
634	344	Ally & Brothers	588
635	345	Ally & Brothers	589
636	346	Ally & Brothers	590
637	347	Ally & Brothers	591
638	348	Ally & Brothers	592
639	349	Ally & Brothers	593
640	350	Ally & Brothers	594
641	351	Ally & Brothers	595
642	352	Ally & Brothers	596
643	353	Ally & Brothers	597
644	354	Ally & Brothers	598
645	355				

RI	Other	Cum	Yr
R	P	P	E
R	Other	Cum <th>Yr</th>	Yr
R	P	P	E

UNIT TRUST MANAGERS			Unit	Class	Value
BARBHAM MANAGEMENT					
Barbham Growth Fund, London EC2A 9EJ					
Barbham Income Fund, London EC2A 9EJ					
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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Tootal slides 7p after Entrad sells stake

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Shares of the Tootal textile group fell 7p to 77p yesterday as Entrad, the Australian group which made an unsuccessful £128-million takeover bid this year, sold its 29.9 per cent shareholding.

The surprise sale was said to have displeased J. Rothschild Holdings which rushed to Tootal's defence during its bid battle and acquired a 9 per cent share stake.

Laing & Cruickshank, the broker, placed the shares with a "wide range" of institutional and private clients. A spokesman refused to disclose the placing price, but the sale must have raised about £42.5 million for the Australian group which wants the cash to develop its domestic operations.

Tootal said the sale was made with its agreement. Two Entrad representatives, Mr Abraham Goldberg and Mr Zev Furst, intend to resign from the Tootal board.

They become directors in July when Entrad agreed it would not resume its bid for Tootal.

Equities had an uncertain session with the sight of another C. H. Beazer, the building group, has grown tired of sitting on the sidelines in the battle for control of the SGB scaffolding group. It has sold its 4.9 per cent SGB shareholding and there is speculation that the shares have gone to British Electric Traction, the bidders. SGB was unchanged at 260p.

big placing unsettling many investors. Worries that the £933-million Cable & Wireless flotation will not be the huge success many have predicted continued to dampen sentiment. Tomorrow's Opec meeting was another weakening influence.

But the dominating force was again anxiety to take profits and with speculators selling into a weakening market, price falls were significant at one point.

But towards the close, nerves were calmed by another strong Wall Street opening and the appearance of new time buyers, hoping to spot the takeover victims of the next account.

At one time the FT-30 share index was down 17.2 points, falling below 1,100 for the first time for two weeks. But the index closed at 1,110.4, a fall of 5.4 points. The FT-SE share index showed a similar per-

formance. An early afternoon fall of 17.1 points was reduced to 4.3 points, at 1,393.3 points, at the close.

Government stocks reflected the weaker pound with falls of up to 2 1/2%.

Among leading stocks, Cable & Wireless fell 5p to 605p - the flotation price is 587p - and Thorn EMI tumbled 15p to 414p on the share scale by Mr Robert Holmes a Court, the Australian financier.

Laura Ashley Holdings made the predictable exhilarating debut. Sold at 135p, the shares surged to 194p in hectic first-time dealings before settling at 187p. Abbott Mead Vickers, the advertising agency, reached 208p against a 180p offer price. The closing level was 203p.

On the USM, Cranwick Mill Group, placed at 95p traded up to 101p. Technical Component Industries raced ahead to 193p from its 130p placing level but Crusts slipped to 72p from its 74p placing level after touching 77p. Dean Park Hotels, back from suspension after the bid from Queens Moat Houses, returned at 58p and closed at 55p.

Beer shares had a little help from the Bass full year figures. But Allied-Lyons, on mounting fears that the Elders bid will be referred to the Monopolies Commission fell 10p to 270p at one time before closing at 278p. The Government's decision is expected today.

Distillers closed 3p down at 493p and bidders Argyl-Group closed 5p lower at 335p.

Molins, the tobacco machinery group which is the subject of a management buy-out, held at 173p, just above the signalled buy-out price.

Mr Ron Brierley, the Australian businessman, is continuing to buy Molins shares and looks like endangering the management's plans. His IEF Securities

said yesterday that it had acquired more shares and now has 9.9 per cent.

Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, was also buying shares yesterday - but his target was Britannia Arrow Holdings, the financial group. He has already acquired a 5 per cent shareholding for about £10 million and has picked up another 500,000 shares. The Maxwell buying is said to be a personal investment to help Mr Geoffrey Rippon, BAH's chairman, in his fight to resist a £12 million takeover bid from Guinness Peat, the merchant bank.

General Electric Co fell 4p to 172p and its intended takeover victim, Plessey finished at the same price - own 2p.

Rumours persist that Racal Electronics could attempt to come to Plessey's rescue and its shares rose 2p to 164p. STC eased 2p to 92p. Ferranti, following figures, fell 2p to 130p.

First Leisure Corporation, the piers to restaurants group run by Lord Delfont, came in for another cheerful run as investors continued to look for good results - and, just possibly, a takeover bid. The shares gained 9p to 415p.

The Guinness drinks group slipped 5p to 291p. The company is thought to have met analysts this week.

English China Clays continued to retreat on fading bid hopes and ended 6p down at 290p. Scafa Group fell 25p to 393p on profits disappointment.

British Home Stores was again an active market as speculators continued to contemplate the possibility of a counter offer to the Habitat Mothercare proposal. At the close the shares were 6p down at 418p. They had been down to 408p.

H&M lost 4p to 498p and Seare, still thought to be a likely contender for BHS, edged 1/2p better to 110p. Burton Group rose 13p to 556p.

COMPANY NEWS

● **FINE ART DEVELOPMENTS:** For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 55,623 (47,638), while the pretax profit was 1,055 (462). Earnings per share were 1.07p (50p). An interim dividend of 1.2p (1.1p) is being paid.

● **PROPERTY & REVERSIONARY INVESTMENTS:** For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, gross rental income was 2,248 (1,899) while the pretax profit was 1,312 (1,082). Earnings per share were 2.5p (2.2p). An interim dividend of 1.5p (1.25p) is being paid.

● **ICELAND FROZEN FOODS:** The company has purchased 12 specialist frozen food stores from the restituted Orchard Market (Belfast) for £949,000.

● **ALLIED LONDON PROPERTY:** The company is issuing £15 million first mortgage debenture stock, 2025, payable as to £25 per £100 nominal by Dec. 9 and the balance by March 6 next.

● **LISTER & CO:** For the half-year to Sept 28, with figures in £000, turnover was 16,234 (15,234), while the pretax profit was 407 (23). Earnings per share were 3.27p (1.51p).

● **GEORVOR TUN MINES:** For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 4,199 (3,574), while the pretax profit was 268 (324). Earnings per share were 5.3p (6p). Interim dividend, nil (4p).

● **CITY OF DUBLIN BANK:** For the year to Sept 30, with figures in Irish £000, pretax profit was 286 (706). A final dividend of 2.2p (2.25p) is being paid, making a total of 3.2p (3.25p). The 1984 figures are not strictly comparable.

● **EDBRO (HOLDINGS):** For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 10,000 (9,200) while the pretax profit was 1,100 (1,000). Earnings per share were 1.23p (1.1p). An interim dividend of 2.5p (2p) is being paid.

● **COLE GROUP:** Low and Bonar's offer for Cole Group is being extended until December 18. By December 4, the first closing date acceptances had been received for 16,187 ordinary shares (about 0.5 per cent).

● **QUEEN'S MOAT HOUSES:** An agreed offer worth £7 million is to be made for Dean Park Hotels. Terms: 19 Queen's Moat shares for 22 Dean Park Shares. The share exchange offer is equivalent to about 58p for each Dean Park share. There is a cash alternative, underwritten by Charterhouse Japhet, of 55p per share. Holders of 40.3 per cent of the Dean Park shares have irrevocably undertaken to accept the offer.

● **ALLIED IRISH BANKS:** The group is to reorganise its operations to bring together, under common group management, business activities and units which are addressing the same markets. The new group structure focuses on retail and corporate markets in Ireland and Britain. The executive management of the investment in First Maryland Bank and strategic development group management support functions.

● **SCAPA GROUP:** For the half-year to September 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 58,036 (71,827) while the pretax profit was 13,086 (11,613). Earnings per share were 18.6p (18.1p). Interim dividend of 4p (3.7p) is being paid.

● **SMITH & NEPHEW ASSOCIATED COMPANIES:** For the 40 weeks to Oct 5, with figures in £000, turnover was 328,686 (279,508) while the pretax profit was 47,472 (37,583). Earnings per share were 7.87p (6.51p).

● **HARGREAVES GROUP:** For the half-year to Sept 30, with figures in £000, turnover was 146,819 (117,338), while the pretax profit was 4,477 (2,822). Earnings per share were 7.1p (5.5p). An interim dividend of 2.4p (2p) is being paid.

● **CLONDAKIN GROUP:** The group has arranged the placing of 1.08 million new shares (9.8 per cent at 238p each to raise £2.6 million before costs. The shares have been placed with financial institutions in Dublin and London by the company's brokers. The reason for the placing is to raise funds for the development plan. The group is also in talks regarding acquisitions.

● **BRITISH LAND:** The company has bought Equitable Debenture and Assets Corporation for £18.5 million, plus a further £1.35 million which will be held in escrow by way of retention mainly for remedial work to International House, Ashford. Equitable's portfolio of properties was valued at £22.6 million in June by Jones Lang Wootton. Its assets include cash exceeding £5 million.

● **LEOPOLD JOSEPH:** The interim dividend is being raised from 1.87p to 2.81p to reduce the disparity between payments. The board reports that, for the half-year to September 30, pretax profits show a "distinct advance" over the corresponding period in the previous year.

● **PYKE (HOLDINGS):** The directors strongly urge shareholders to take no action on the tender offer from Glen International. A letter will soon be sent to shareholders in which the board will be advising shareholders to reject the offer.

● **FAIRLINE BOATS:** For the year to September 30 with figures in £000, turnover was 9,898 (6,398), while the pretax profit was 806 (402). Earnings per share were 14.4p (7.22p). A final dividend of 2.7p (1.5p) is being paid on January 30, making a total of 4.2p (2.6p).

Company	Price
A M S Industries 5p Ord (85)	101
Abbott Mead Vickers 25p Ord (180)	187
Ashley (Laural) 5p Ord (135)	129
Channing Wholesale 5p Ord (125)	67 1/2
Chine & Sumner 10p Ord (160)	49 1/2
Cont Assets 7p 75p Ord (71p)	164 1/2
Cranwick Mill 95p Ord (101p)	101
Dean Park Hotels 58p Ord (55p)	55
Fairbairn 10p Ord (120)	116
German Sec Inv 11p Ord (100 50p)	66
Hampton House 10p Ord (57a)	57
Isaco 10p Ord (55)	51
1.5 Technology 10p Ord (160a)	160 1/2
SPV 10p Ord (125)	147
St Ives Group 10p Ord (330p)	490 1/2
Sunderland & Bridge 10p Ord (97a)	106 1/2
Sterling Polymers 10p Ord (57a)	57
Suma Inv (100)	98
T M D Advertising 3p Ord (11 1/2a)	122
Technical Component 25p Ord (187p)	188 1/2
Underwoods 10p Ord (187p)	187
World of Leather 10p Ord (120a)	138
Rights Issues	
Countrywide Prop (270) Nil Pd	42 prem-2
Summersons Gty (460) Nil Pd	33 prem-3
Woolwood (177) Nil Pd	28 prem-3
* Price in parentheses, a Unlisted Securities	
*p means	

TEMPUS

Hanson's dynamic duo produces bumper year

The latest figures from Hanson Trust demonstrate a further polishing of Hanson's skill for taking plodding, low technology companies and squeezing them into highly profitable shape. Despite the distractions of the acrimonious fight for SCM, complete with devastating cross-examinations by real life Perry Masons, the dynamic partnership of Lord Hanson and Sir Gordon White boosted profits by 49 per cent in the year to September.

Costs pared to near transparency coupled with an ability to turn useless assets into capital are the key to Hanson management. Although the group's £500 million rights issue in the summer met with a dismal reaction in the City, the proceeds helped virtually to eliminate interest charges. Thus turnover up from £2.58 billion to £2.67 billion, fed through to pretax profits up from £169 million to £253 million.

Particularly bright spots were Hanson Brick, where profits increased from £32.6 million to £53.8 million and Alders, the department store and duty-free trading business, which had a bumper year. The rise in profits from £24.8 million to £29 million explains why suggestions that Hanson would be in and out of retailing have proved wrong.

In the United States the Hanson star does not shine as brightly. Textiles were hard hit by imports. Carisbrook's profits fell from more than £20 million to £15 million. Consumer products and food were also slightly down. In contrast, USI Lighting, now the third largest lighting company in the world, more than doubled its contribution.

The US and British sides are now almost evenly balanced, but they are unlikely to remain so. Hanson's appeal in the SCM case is due to resume later this month, with a verdict promised for early January.

Opinion is divided over whether this industrial conglomerate will be the one that escapes the Hanson net. On the precedent of the Revlon case, the decision should go against Hanson. If it does not, then the legal bill is likely to be sufficient to wipe out most of Hanson's profit on the shares.

Unperturbed, Hanson has Bowater in Britain lined up for its next attack. Until that comes, Hanson shares are

unlikely to be a source of much excitement. At present levels, up just 3p to 210p on yesterday's news, the price is justified on fundamentals including the tenth consecutive 20 per cent increase in the dividend. There is also a one-for-three scrip.

Bass

The big Bass drum was beaten with its usual vigour yesterday, despite preliminary results with reflected a difficult year. Bad weather, a shorter trading period and a strike at the Runcorn Brewery in Cheshire, combined to depress the performance.

Even so, pretax profits at £25.1 million, up from £218.4 million, were well in line with revised expectations.

Bass was unwilling to quantify the impact of the seven-week overtime ban and four-week strike at Runcorn, but there is no doubt that it hampered beer volumes. These declined by slightly less than the industry average, which implies a small increase in market share, but less than might otherwise have been expected.

Lager now accounts for 47 per cent of production, up from 46 per cent. There was an increase in the group's larger market share in England and Wales, but in Scotland, where Bass is already strong in lager, it was the ales which did better.

Overall, the brewing, drinks and pub retailing operations increased trading profits, before property disposals, to £214.2 million from £189.3 million.

Once again there was heavy capital spending and the retail outlets alone will absorb a further fixed investment of £150 million in the present year.

The brewing operations still overshadow Bass leisure interests, but these are playing an increasingly important part in the group's performance. Trading profits before a small loss on property sales rose to £45.4 million, from £35.7 million.

Perhaps the star of this show was the Crest Hotels chain which took its share of the tourist boom in Britain. Profits there doubled and Bass is planning to expand the chain with attention on European capital cities.

The holiday business, however, remained depressed. The

link with Horizon appears not to have produced instant benefits.

The publicity on giveaway holidays has, however, generated a lot of interest and 1986 is no longer viewed with pessimism.

The group's resilience to such difficulties has been demonstrated and as a mark of respect the shares were marked up 2p to 65p.

The shares have performed well and still look fundamentally cheap. However, the prospect of a monopolies referral for the Allied Lyons and Elders confrontation may take some of the froth out of the sector.

None the less, Bass remains a strong core holding and the shares should be grasped tightly.

Dee Corporation

The Dee Corporation is winning admirers by staying away from the takeover party. Not so long ago investors found it difficult to choose between Dee and Argyl Group, but now that Argyl is embroiled in a bid for Distillers, the task is easier. In the past two months investors have demonstrated their preference for Dee.

This is not to say that the stay-at-home has been idling away its time. Yesterday Dee announced first half profits of £4.1 million before tax, up from £27.5 million. After stripping out property profits, the increase was 70 per cent. While the company has not made any large acquisitions it did buy Lonsdale & Thomson, a cash-and-carry operation, for £7.8 million in October. The main emphasis now, however, is on the existing business.

Volume is the concern. Overall sales rose by 15 per cent in the first half but this was helped by contributions from the new stores. On a like-for-like basis, volumes rose by 11 per cent in the Gateway supermarkets and by 20 per cent in the Carrefour cash-and-carry business.

Dee gives a warning that the second half profit increase will not be as big as in the first half. It warns shareholders not to expect another 35 per cent increase in dividends. This had the effect of depressing the shares 10p to 270p yesterday but this looks like a temporary halt.

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Equities drift

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 25. Dealings End, Today. 5 Contango Day, Dec 9. Settlement Day, Dec 16.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

[illegible]



Thirty per cent of Allied-Lyons' turnover comes from selling its goods abroad. In fact, in the last four years our overseas sales have increased by over fifty per cent to an incredible £945.1 million. But where would the benefits of all this go if Elders was to take over? And what would happen to

the jobs of our 71,500 employees? What proper guarantees can Elders give to them when it has publicly stated that it would sell off parts of our business, presumably to the highest bidder? Allied-Lyons is a major employer and money earner for Britain, with a bigger turnover than British

Airways, or even the Post Office (and we wouldn't allow them to be hived off to an Australian company, would we?) Allied-Lyons is a great British company and should be kept intact. As a shareholder, you can make sure it is. Don't sell out to Elders.

Allied-Lyons
In five years up to February 1985, our pre-tax profit rose from £112m to £219m.

BCal starts new talks on sale of tour firms

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

British Caledonian, which, because of mounting problems, has abandoned its expected February flotation on the Stock Exchange, is in fresh talks to sell off its Blue Sky and Arrowsmith tour operating subsidiaries after negotiations with Horizon Travel collapsed.

Horizon, Britain's third largest package holiday company, has pulled out of the negotiations because of timing problems in integrating BCal's operations with its own in time for next summer's holiday season. The coming year will be a crucial one for BCal as it battles it out, particularly with Thomson Holidays, which has spearheaded the price war in foreign holidays.

BCal has already made clear its intention to sell off Blue Sky and Arrowsmith while retaining Jet-Save, its long-haul tour operation whose use of scheduled flights dovetails with BCal's mainstream activities.

Now talks with more than one potential buyer have been revived, it is understood.

Arrowsmith, once part of Sir Freddie Laker's operations, was bought during the summer from Greenall Whitely, the North-West regional brewer. The attempt to secure some economies of scale to ease the problems of the loss-making Blue Sky was made before Thomson set off the price war with cuts of up to a fifth.

In the price battle the medium-sized operators are most at risk. Blue Sky and Arrowsmith, which are likely to carry around 300,000 next year, fall into this sensitive category, even though they are among the top 10 operators.

This week it emerged that BCal had postponed indefinitely a market flotation, ditching its chance of getting in before the delayed British Airways sale. BCal is expected soon to announce improved profits in the year to last October, but the present year now looks far less promising.

In common with other airlines BCal faces a number of problems. Aircraft capacity generally is ahead of demand, threatening more price-cutting, and fuel prices have been going up. There has also been a fall-off in north Atlantic traffic as American travellers have been deterred by the strengthening pound. For BCal, flying to and from the States gateway cities, including New York and Los Angeles, the north Atlantic is the biggest single market.

Its most important single destination is Lagos, where, as in some other parts of Africa, airlines have problems collecting cash remittances. The Nigerian devaluation has also cut the value of earnings.

BCal's plans for an Asian air routes network based on Hong Kong were also scuttled this week, when the airline withdrew from Hong Kong hearings on its application for licences to fly to 24 cities in east Asia. The blame was laid on political uncertainty in China, licensing changes and pre-emptive moves by Cathay Pacific, the key Hong Kong airline, which is resuming some important Japanese and Taiwan services.

Cathay has also just won a licence for a new lucrative Peking service, while at the same time the Hong Kong authorities have ruled that normally only one carrier would be licensed for a single route.

Horizon said yesterday that negotiations with BCal were terminated by mutual consent. Purchase of the BCal subsidiaries would have involved securing shareholder approval with its attendant delay. Blue Sky and Arrowsmith would have boosted Horizon's prospective carryings next year to more than £1 million compared with £2 million at Thomson.

Brazilian crisis would swamp Baker debt plan

Brazil's President Jose Sarney has joined his neighbour, President Raul Alfonsín of Argentina, to praise the Baker plan, the US initiative to aid debtor countries. But they have given a warning that the proposed \$20 billion new bank lending for 15 debtor nations over three years will be insufficient and that Latin American nations should press their economic case more vigorously. PATRICK KNIGHT explains Brazil's economic dilemma.

The "Baker Plan", which anticipates that the large private banks will provide \$20 billion of new money for some of the world's largest debtor countries, seems to be in danger of being overtaken by events. Mexico is slipping further into crisis, while bank collapses in Brazil hint that all is not well with the world's largest debtor country.

Brazil has been in the bankers' good books for the past couple of years, having done the seemingly impossible: generating a trade surplus large enough to pay all the interest due on its \$100 billion debt.

But unless it quickly changes economic course in a way which

industries, for example, have reverted to their earlier pattern of selling two-thirds of output at home and exporting one-third after a year when that was inverted.

There is a debate over when the spare capacity will be exhausted, so that more capital goods will be required. The optimists say that there is enough to keep going for more than a year, without producing bottlenecks. But others suggest that imports will have to grow by 10 to 15 per cent in 1986, with imports by private industry up by about a third.

If imports resulting in increased production were the only ones, that might not be too bad. To ease the pressure, more than anticipated will have to be spent on imports of oil in the last months of the year. If the 6 to 7 per cent growth anticipated for 1986 comes about, demand for oil is likely to soar, while no large increases in home production are scheduled.

From \$2 billion being earned from exports of refined products in 1984, perhaps \$2 billion more will have to be spent on crude imports in 1986 than this year.

Optimists suggest a \$9 billion trade surplus in 1986, implying \$3 billion of new borrowing if interest payments are to be kept up. But far more will almost certainly be needed.

The bankers, confronted with a demand for the \$6 billion which the finance minister, Senhor Dilson Funaro, has said would "help fight inflation

is now politically impossible. It will need all of the \$20 billion which Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, is talking about, all on its own.

Brazil achieved a \$13 billion trade surplus in 1984 by holding down imports and increasing exports by more than a quarter, to a record 12.5 per cent of its national product.

Almost half the surplus came from trade with one country, the United States, which took about \$5 billion more exports than it provided imports. This had far more to do with US economic policy than Brazil's exporting acumen, however.

This year, there will be a similar sized surplus, but for different reasons. Exports have fallen by about 8 per cent but imports have fallen by 10 per cent, basically of oil, has saved Brazil and the bankers. This came about despite the economy growing by 7 per cent, the highest for almost a decade. Utilizing the large amount of spare capacity has permitted the growth, without so far provoking extra imports, or fueling inflation.

The vital oil import cut is explained by two factors. Several new finds have come on stream, the \$50,000 barrels a day, three times what it was five years ago.

Brazil's massive investments in hydro-electricity have also come to maturity and there has been a big switch to this as a fuel for industry. Electricity now provides more energy than oil, whereas it contributed only half as much a decade ago.

This year's economic boom, the logical consequence of last year's export-led growth, has coincided with the new government's policy of ending the squeeze which had cut almost everybody's living standards. Wages are rising by about 15 per cent this year.

This is resulting in a massive increase in demand for goods, when they are becoming harder to sell abroad.

The textile, shoe and paper



Jose Sarney: praise for US initiative

Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, is talking about, all on its own.

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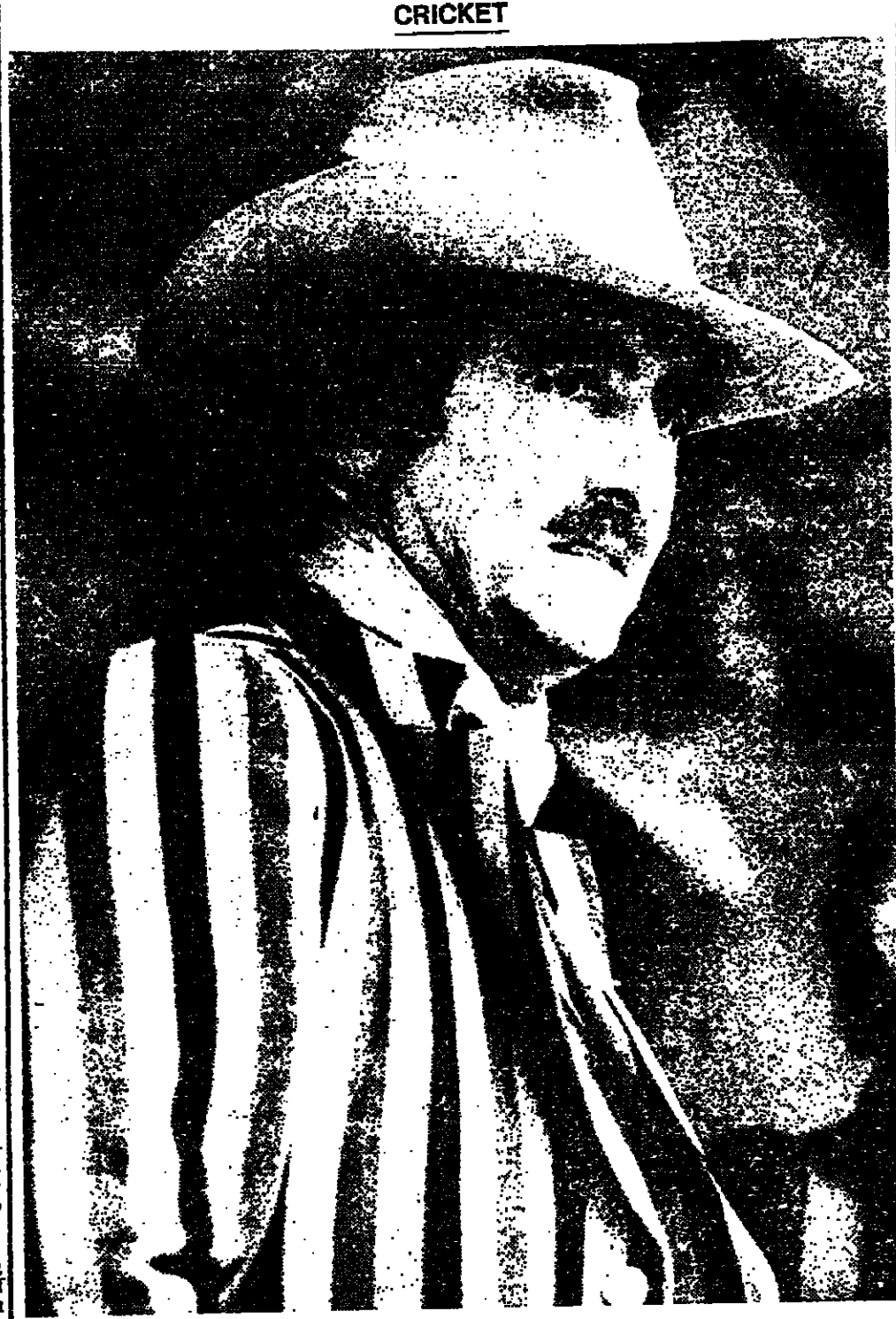
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The textile, shoe and paper



Trail-blazer Tim Hudson: opening up frontiers to financial security

Biggles Botham could be a high flyer in Hollywood

Simon Barnes

Tonight Ian Botham dines in Hollywood with Jackie Collins and other glittering guests of his agent, Tim Hudson. How come this night? It happened in 1984, when Botham was in the United States for the first time, to look at California, Hollywood and Beverly Hills, and so that he could see the stars.

"Mr Botham will become one of the great bang 'em, shoot 'em up stars. We're not talking about making a film tomorrow, he is coming here to make new friends. But we will slowly break Mr Botham into Hollywood, and Hollywood will get to know this English conqueror here."

No one quite knows how to take Hudson, with his pony tail, his rock 'n' roll talk, and his plans for turning Botham into a rock-and-roll movie star. What is certain is that he has put a new spring into Botham's step: the new hair cut, the striped blazers, the Panama hats, have all gone to make Botham more Botham-like than ever. The disillusionment with cricket that he felt as he left Pakistan two winters back is utterly vanished. "He is very disappointed to hear people out here are making a film of Biggles, because he would love to play Biggles."

Hudson always refers to the Golden Boy as Mr Botham. Doubtless the title goes with the name. "I don't talk about cricket to Hollywood people. I would lose them straight away. I talk about

many top Test match cricketers - Botham, Richards, Edmonds and others at this sort of level, get roundly fed up with revolving around the county circuit seven days a week. There is a real sense in which such players have outgrown the reclusiveness of the county championships. For them, Hudson has a plan.

He wants to set up a kind of festival circuit, a circus of the stars playing cricket at holiday grounds like Blackpool and Scarborough. "That would attract people in the same way that they go to rock concerts."

"People over 70 will splutter into their gin and tonics and say 'Who is this fellow Hudson?' But I want to pass on what I have seen in the New World, just as Sir Walter Raleigh did 300 years ago.

Hudson sees himself as a believer, yes, in the finest traditions of the game, this is the meaning of the striped blazer. The game is often administered by people who are out of touch. It is as if the man who used to be the media through which to handle Duran Duran. On the other hand, putting Hudson in charge of English cricket would be like putting Duran Duran's agent in charge of the Royal Philharmonic.

Hudson has, with considerable shrewdness, put his finger on a certain restlessness on the county circuit. Many players find the championship a kind of stick to it because it is necessary.

Smart entrepreneurs have been able to exploit such rumblings of discontent in the past. Kerry Packer being the prime example. These business ventures have been for the benefit of the businessmen - not for the benefit of the sport. That's business.

It's easy to get distracted by the pony tail and the blazer, and to write Hudson off as a clown, as a no-account. But he has a measure of support among professional cricketers, and powerful people in the media through which to publicize his ideas. With football in a trough, and cricket popular as never before - thanks no least to his "No 1 client, Ian Botham" - to say that Hudson is a kind of Duran Duran approach would be to blind oneself to the new huge drawing power of cricket, and the minuscule drawing power of the county championship. Of course, a circus might turn out to be just one of those flashes in the pan that leave lasting scars on the game. But as they say in Hollywood, that's show business!

It is unquestionably the case that

years he can gain the kind of financial rewards he is capable of. He is at a crossroads. He can become Fred Trueman or Fred Perry.

And he believes that through him Botham can become an international figure financially secure - sports talk for rich - for the rest of his life. He is not talking about taking cricket away from cricket, not yet. Botham has, he says, three or four more years at the top before he needs to consider becoming James Bond. It is three or four years in which Hudson can do the ground work - like getting Botham to pose as Rambo on the front page of *The Sun* under the heading "Rambo-botham" which, as my press box colleague Matthew Engel remarked, sounds like a town in Lancashire.

And while Botham remains in cricket, so Hudson's interest in the professional game increases. Hudson has long been a cricket lover, a wicketkeeper until his knees gave out, who now bats a bit and bowls the odd floater. And he is discovering very true about the county game.

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Bruno's backers right to protect their world hope

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

It was a good left hook to the liver from Frank Bruno. He looked good too, shaping into the blow. It was as wicked as a rifle shot. There was a noise like a report when it struck. The big Californian, Larry Frazier, rolled over and curled up like an orange peel. It was all over inside two rounds. When he started boxing he wondered where he had left all that stuff he had picked up working with men like Foreman and Holmes. I guess in Soledad prison, where he had spent two years for assaulting a police officer. Every time he threw a punch or Bruno threw one he screwed his eyes up. He was no good for Bruno. And he was no good for the BBC, either. They cannot fool the viewers.

It was a pity that Bruno, realizing that Frazier was not dangerous, did not let the bout go on longer. Frazier was an expert at holding. It would have done Bruno a world of good getting live experience of that sort. What a pity that Bruno's original opponent, Larry Alexander, who claimed to be New York because of his connection with the brain scan, Bruno's backers cannot be faulted for wanting to protect their man so close to a world title that will make everyone rich.

Bruno's connections are bound to make the most of his being only the second man to knock out Frazier in his 13-year career. A world title bout cannot be far. It has to be soon, for Bruno cannot go on doubling up his fighters with shots to the body. Down the Thomas A' Becket they will tell you there is something wrong with fighters who cannot take shots to the body.

At 36 Frazier did not look right. He looked the archetypal fighter who had to keep taking blows to keep body and soul together and the belief in bay. When he came into the ring instead of going through the usual loosening up routine he lowered himself on to his stool a bit like Dad coming home after work and settling into his favourite chair and switching on the telly. His legs were too thin to carry his 16st 12lb.

When Bruno took his expensive red gown off you saw more muscles than a cock's ass. Southend. When Frazier took off his cheaper shiny-blue robe you noticed a sagging chest. His skin seemed to have that transparent look peculiar to old people. When he started boxing he wondered where he had left all that stuff he had picked up working with men like Foreman and Holmes. I guess in Soledad prison, where he had spent two years for assaulting a police officer. Every time he threw a punch or Bruno threw one he screwed his eyes up. He was no good for Bruno. And he was no good for the BBC, either. They cannot fool the viewers.

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FOOTBALL

Television breakdown is complete as the two sides stand their ground

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The Football League chairman's negotiating committee and representatives from the television companies remained on speaking terms yesterday for a mere four minutes. At the end of yet another fruitless meeting, and the briefest so far, it became clear that the two sides will not appear on the small screen this season for the first time in 23 years.

Jonathan Martin and John Bromley, negotiating on behalf of the BBC and ITV respectively, walked out as soon as they heard that the League had refused to alter their position. "This is the end," Bromley said. "We wrote to all the chairmen setting out our plans and we were hopeful that there would be a positive result today."

Graham Kelly, the League secretary, commented: "We quickly established that the television companies were not prepared to improve their offer of showing six live games and 14 recorded highlights from January until the end of the season. That was rejected unanimously at a meeting of the League clubs last month."

"The television people were not prepared to make any movement towards our position. Perhaps they will now accept that the breakdown is irretrievable."

Bromley added that it was impossible to fit in the recorded highlights of 38 games, as requested by the League. The two parties are, therefore, still deeply divided and apparently intransigent.

Although the battle has been waged for 16 months, the trenches were dug in February.

The television companies offered a package that was financially attractive, £19.2 million over four years, but with terms that were equally unattractive. Citing curious evidence that viewers were less interested in recorded highlights, they planned to show so many live games that the idea bordered on the absurd.

The chairmen justifiably felt that live coverage, introduced initially as an experiment, was being taken far beyond acceptable limits subsequently rejected by the clubs. Yet the discussions, which were then amicable, were postponed for so long that by the time they resumed earlier this season they had sunk into stubborn inflexibility.

Amid a clash of personalities, involving the likes of Robert Maxwell and Ken Bates, who are not famed for readily accepting opinions that differ from their own, meetings descended into little more than undignified and publicly embarrassing verbal warfare. Neither side deserved any credit for bringing the matter into such dispute.

The resignation last week of Sir Arthur South, who was the head of the League's committee and one of the more sensitive figures in the regrettable dispute, was ominous. Even though the television companies claimed beforehand to be optimistic, it was almost inevitable that yesterday's rendezvous in London would end in another note of discord.

In the absence of Sir Arthur, the League's team were led by Philip Carter, of Everton. His colleagues included Irving

Scholar, of Tottenham Hotspur; Peter Robinson, of Liverpool; and Bob Daniel, of Torquay United. The television's line-up also featured Cliff Morgan, of the BBC and Ronald Allison, of ITV.

The impasse will not end as long as the League's committee remain obstinate and the television companies remain insensitive to the dangers of excessive live coverage.

As the solution continues to be elusive, so the effect continues to be damaging. The clubs are losing money (those in the first division could collect up to £40,000 a game in perimeter advertising alone), football is losing its appeal (the drastic fall in gates proves conclusively that it needs the exposure), and the public are largely unaware of the new and encouraging spirit of adventure on the field.

The only fixtures that are sure to be seen this season are the Milk Cup Final on Sunday, April 20, and England's match against Scotland at Wembley three days later. Even the FA Cup Final on May 10 is in danger, although Kelly is assuming that "they will want to televise that live."

A video entitled *Mirror's Soccer 85* could give viewers a glimpse of what they have been missing. It embraces 22 first division games, includes 72 goals, and will be on sale next month at a cost of £19.99. Available by mail order, it has proved a popular item. More than 5,000 have already been sold.

England has chance to keep his Welsh job part-time

By Clive White

Rumours that Mike England had lost his job as the Wales manager proved only partly correct yesterday when the Welsh Football Association announced that their only decision in the matter was that they could no longer afford a full time manager and that as of August next year the position would become part-time. England, however, will have to apply for his own job.

England said yesterday: "I have had more than five good years as manager and I'll be proud to keep doing the job in whatever capacity the Welsh FA would like. It is not the money it is a question of national pride. If the job is part-time I would still like to do it." He added: "We now have the best squad in my time as manager and I want to be involved when it realises its potential."

Alan Evans, the Welsh FA secretary, said: "The Council have yet to define exactly what they are seeking in a part-time manager." They have two options. They can either pay a retainer, as Northern Ireland do to Billy Bingham, their manager, or pay a match fee.

The Welsh FA, for some while, have been impressed by Bingham's achievements in part-time capacity, but, of course, such a



England: keen to stay

position is not without suitable reward. The Welsh will decide on the method in January or early February when they will also announce their appointment. It will not be advertised in the interim period.

Ever since Wales failed to qualify for the World Cup finals two months ago, it has been inevitable that the Welsh would be unable to maintain the £23,000 a year salary

which England had received since his appointment in 1980. Their finances had already been seriously affected by the demise of the British championship and this latest disappointment has meant that cuts have had to be made.

Several of the Welsh Council members blamed England for their failure to qualify for the Mexico World Cup. They wanted him to be replaced, Brian Clough and Lawrie McMenemy are rumoured to be candidates.

It was the third consecutive occasion on which Wales have narrowly failed to reach the final stages of a major championship when well placed to take the final step. This time they came within nine minutes of reaching Mexico next year. They were leading by 1-0 in the match with Scotland at Ninian Park when Jan Keizer, the Dutch referee, awarded a controversial penalty for handball against Phillips. Cooper converted to gain the draw Scotland required and now the Welsh are going to the finals instead.

As England commented ruefully: "The referee will be going to Mexico but not Wales. If he had not awarded that penalty none of this business about my future would have happened."

Fry is hoping Maidstone can surprise Plymouth

By Paul Newman

Berry Fry, the manager of Maidstone United, is not exactly enjoying the happiest of seasons. His side lie third to bottom of the Gola League, injuries have frequently dented his team selection and he has yet to be given a home draw in the FA Cup. "I keep thinking things can't get worse and then something else happens," he said.

Maidstone, who travel to Plymouth Argyle tomorrow in the second round of the Cup, won a Gola League title 19 months ago but have stuttered and stumbled ever since. Bill Williams, the manager, left in the middle of last season and with the championship side breaking up, Fry, his successor, was left with a substantial rebuilding operation. He has strengthened the squad in several areas, but a succession of injuries have thwarted his plans.

Brinkman, one of the players who followed Fry when he left Barnet last season, suffered a heart attack after a game and will never play again. Joyce, a prolific goalscorer signed from Sutton United and around whom Fry planned to build his attack, has suffered one injury after another.

Joyce and Reynolds, who has been out for six weeks, may have to be rushed back to team action tomorrow because of the club's growing injury crisis. Horton (eye and head injuries), Crowe (knee) and Donn (leg) all seem certain to miss tomorrow's game.

Maidstone have been drawn away in all three of their FA Cup ties this season. In the fourth qualifying round they won 2-0 at Bromley and



FA CUP

were rewarded with a trip to Farnham. Three days before the game they lost at home to Tonbridge in the Kent Senior Cup.

Fry was disappointed with the performance that he offered the public their money back - one supporter took him up on it - and ordered the team to make their own way to Farnham. A shock treatment seemed to work as Maidstone won the match 3-0.

"I don't think we'll repeat that this week," Fry said. "Plymouth is so far away that with my luck at least one of the team would break down on the way there."

With Plymouth challenging for promotion to the second division and Maidstone could hardly face a more difficult match. Indeed, Fry knows all about the Devon side's qualities: his Barnet team (two of whom, Steve Whitbread and Steve Smith, were in the team) lost 3-0 at Home Park in the first round last season.

"We were well beaten last year and from the reports we had this season Plymouth seem to play a very well," Fry said. "But I always believe you have a chance in cup competitions and this provides a welcome break from the league for us. We generally played much better in the cups this season because the pressure has been off."

We might yet surprise a few people."

Ron Atkinson, the manager, said: "It's typical of the way our matches have gone. Frank hasn't done badly."

United, without eight recognized first team squad players, made a fine Whiteside stand-in captain, but he limped out after 55 minutes with the sort of groin injury that adds him to the doubtful list for tomorrow's clash with Ipswich Town.

Rhyl sack manager

Non-league football by Paul Newman

Ray Jones, of Rhyl, has become the fifth Mulipri League manager to lose his job this season. Rhyl are in the bottom half of the table and have been knocked out of the Welsh Cup.

Jones, a former defender with Runcorn and Chester, joined the North Wales club from Colwyn Bay seven years ago. Selwyn Morris, a senior player, has taken temporary charge of the team.

John Overton, Goole Town's caretaker player-manager, has been given the job on a permanent basis. The Farnham manager, now appointed Terry Vallance, formerly with Grantham, Gainsborough Trinity and Worksop Town, as their coach.

Graham Fox, the Slough Town goalkeeper, may never play again after suffering a serious injury in a match against Sutton United. Fox dislocated a shoulder and broke an arm in two places in a collision with a Sutton player.

Booth resigns Preston managership

Tommy Booth resigned as manager of Preston North End yesterday in charge at Deepdale.

Booth, who took over as caretaker manager when Alan Kelly left earlier this year, only signed a contract at the start of the season. His assistant, Brian Kidd, will take temporary charge of the team, starting with tomorrow's game at Swindon.

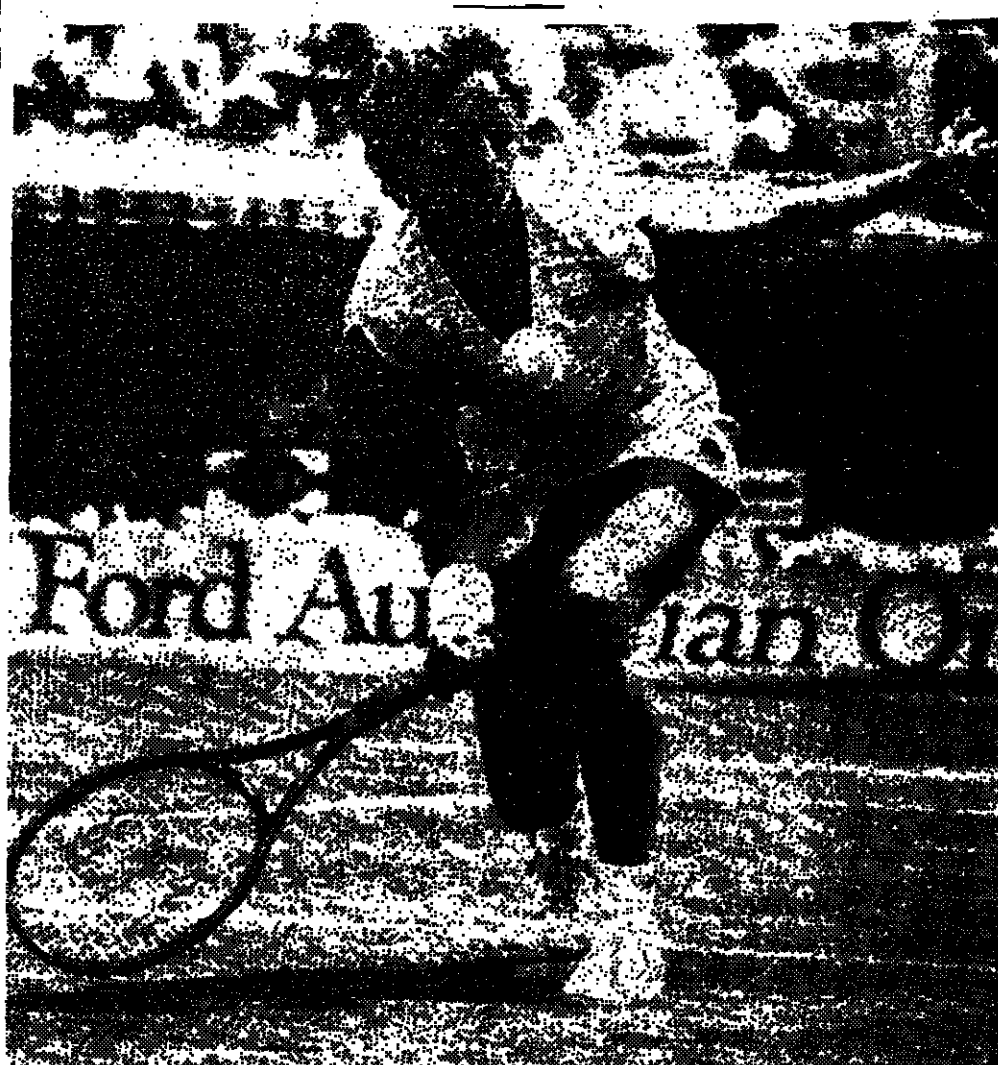
Preston's vice-chairman, John Curran, said that Booth, whose playing career ended a year ago after a series of injuries, had decided to quit in the best interests of the club. "I think he was very concerned at the way results have been going," he said. Preston lie 22nd in the fourth division and have lost six of their last seven games.

Southampton signed Rotherham's full back, Gerry Forrest last night for £100,000. For, at age 28, has been on the transfer list since the summer and nearly joined Sheffield United recently.

Stuart Rimmer, the Canon League's leading goalscorer, could be out for several months after tearing knee ligaments while scoring his 11th goal of the season for the fourth division leaders Chester against Orient on November 23.

Geoff Lomax, a defender with Manchester City, signed for Carlisle United yesterday for £7,000.

TENNIS



Full tilt: Chris Lloyd en route yesterday to a place in the final of the Australian Open

Lloyd finds the pace too hot as Lendl takes up the running

From Richard Evans, Melbourne

By the time Chris Lloyd moved one stage closer to a successful defence of her Australian Open title, Martina Navratilova will present the final, daunting hurdle - the sun was out at Kooyong and a packed crowd of over 11,000 was showing off this famous centre court at its colourful best.

But by then John Lloyd was a spectator himself. In a morning match played under scudding clouds, the British No 1 had matched himself against the world No 1 and had been found wanting - not in skill but in endurance and application. The fact that there was so little to choose between Lloyd and Ivan Lendl throughout the 52-minute first set, only made the eventual score of 7-6, 6-3, 6-1 all the more frustrating for the Briton.

Any underdog needs whatever luck is on offer in a sport that so often divides its winners and losers by inches and, to be fair to Lloyd, he didn't get any. On both occasions when he broke the Czechoslovak's serve, he was foot-faulted on the opening point of his next service game. Both decisions were open to doubt especially as Lloyd is not in the habit of foot-faulting. To some extent both these unsettling calls contributed to Lendl being able to strike back immediately and so stay in the set.

In the tie-break, Lady Luck swung firmly in the Czechoslovak's corner. On the first point the umpire over-ruled a call against Lendl's first serve. As Lloyd was at pains to

point out, he had no business doing so because umpires are only supposed to correct blatant mistakes and this was a very close call indeed. Then a Lloyd half volley hit the top of the tape and fell back and on the next point a backhand volley landed no more than an inch long. Three inches on three points and Lloyd could so easily have been leading 3-0 instead of Lendl.

It would not have been an incorrect reflection of the play, either. Lloyd had volleyed superbly during the first set, looking by far the more natural net player as he dug out low returns and placed the ball crisply into open spaces. He was quick, too, and once completely confounded Lendl by racing back for a deep return and whipping a superb backhand down the line as Lendl moved for a cross court return.

But once Lloyd had lost that tie-break, 7-5, Lendl suddenly started to look like the champion he is. As Lloyd's first serve percentage dropped so Lendl's rose and some of the old doubts that have stifled the Englishman's talent so often in the past began to re-surface.

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Mrs Lloyd and Miss Navratilova

Unconvincing case for giving a world championship label

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

The lack of an official world championship series has had misleading and controversial consequences for the doubles tournament to be played at the Albert Hall, from December 11 to 12. The event is being advertised as a "world championship", a tendentious claim that has no official sanction. The promoters themselves have a confusing corporate title of World Championship Tennis (WCT).

A handbook incorporating the booking form is headed "WCT World Doubles Championship" but contains promotional material from which the word "championship" is missing. The event is described as the "1986 World Doubles Championship" and it is twice suggested that the winners will be "world doubles champions". This claim is repeated in publicity hand-outs.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF), the self-styled "governing body of tennis", organize world team championships for men and women and have never and should never recognize individual "world champions". Shirley Woodhead, general secretary of the ITF, says they have never regarded the winners of the WCT as world champions and have never even considered such a title for the tournament. "Even the winners of the Masters doubles are not called

world champions", she adds. Marshall Happer, administrator of the Men's International Professional Tennis Council (MIPTC), who ran the grand prize and describe themselves as "The Professional Tennis Association", takes a softer line than Miss Woodhead. "The title of the London event, which is an official circuit championship, is the Nabholz grand prize. The WCT world doubles", he says, "is our only official doubles-only tournament during the year. We look forward to the best event in the history of the tournament."

Happer goes on: "There has been no decision to establish world doubles champions similar to the ITF's world championships for singles." A spokesman for the association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) says they have not been asked to recognize any doubles tournament as a world championship.

WCT tournaments are part of the grand prize circuit and should recognize the regulations and policies of the MIPTC, on which both the ITF and ATP are represented. WCT may also be the first time in tennis with a clause in the British code of Advertising Practice: "Advertisements should not contain statements or visual presentations which

directly or by implication, by omission, ambiguity, or exaggeration, are likely to mislead the consumer about the product advertised."

Patrick Deuchar, the tournament director, deserves credit for consistently trying to assemble the finest teams as distinct from providing a doubles showcase for individual celebrities. He considers the "world championship" tag is justified for three reasons: One, "because it is a big event, the only opportunity to play players have to play only doubles"; two, "because the qualification system is based on Nabholz grand prize points accumulated during the year by teams (as distinct from individuals), a system of entry that itself is simple justification for calling it a world championship"; and three, "because for almost 14 years the tournament has had the adopted name of the world doubles championship and has been recognized as such by the players."

All this is plausible but not convincing. The qualification system does not justify the "world championship" claim and his third point is nonsense. The WCT doubles tournament is one of the most distinguished and attractive indoor events, but the claim to "world championship" status is unjustified and unnecessary.

GYMNASTICS

Britain receives record sponsorship

Britain is to receive the largest gymnastics sponsorship in Europe over the next three years. Kraft Foods Ltd are giving £500,000 to the British Amateur Gymnastics Association to cover the sport from club to Olympic level. It was announced in London yesterday.

One of the highlights of the sponsorship is an expenses-paid visit to this country for a national team of 10 Soviet girls. They will spend a month helping the national teams and visiting regional centres.

Three major British trials for men and women for the 1987 world championships and the 1988 Olympic Games will also be covered by the sponsorship.

There will be a Kraft boy and girl gymnast of the month award and a half-yearly scholarship for a boy and girl to travel to the Soviet Union or United States for coaching. Kraft Foods will also support an international match at Wembley, with competitors from the Soviet Union, United States, Bulgaria, Japan, China, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Great Britain.

GOLF

Baboon makes a monkey out of Trevino

Sua City, South Africa (Reuter) - A baboon cost Lee Trevino the outright lead in the first round of the Sun City 51 million challenge yesterday.

Five-under-par after 15 holes, Trevino stood two shots clear of the rest of the 10-man field. But on the 16th a baboon got me," explained the 46-year-old veteran. A family of baboons underneath the tree was watching me and just as I was in my backswing on the tee one of them grunted."

Trevino's tee shot at the par-three 16th missed the green and he went on to drop a shot at the hole. Another dropped shot at the next allowed U.S. Masters champion, Bernhard Langer, of West Germany to take the first round lead.

LEADING SCORES: Bernhard Langer (USA), 1 under par; Trevino (USA), 2 under par; Langer (USA), 3 under par; Langer (USA), 4 under par; Langer (USA), 5 under par; Langer (USA), 6 under par; Langer (USA), 7 under par; Langer (USA), 8 under par; Langer (USA), 9 under par; Langer (USA), 10 under par; Langer (USA), 11 under par; Langer (USA), 12 under par; Langer (USA), 13 under par; Langer (USA), 14 under par; Langer (USA), 15 under par; Langer (USA), 16 under par; Langer (USA), 17 under par; Langer (USA), 18 under par; Langer (USA), 19 under par; Langer (USA), 20 under par; Langer (USA), 21 under par; Langer (USA), 22 under par; Langer (USA), 23 under par; Langer (USA), 24 under par; Langer (USA), 25 under par; Langer (USA), 26 under par; Langer (USA), 27 under par; Langer (USA), 28 under par; Langer (USA), 29 under par; Langer (USA), 30 under par; Langer (USA), 31 under par; Langer (USA), 32 under par; Langer (USA), 33 under par; Langer (USA), 34 under par; Langer (USA), 35 under par; Langer (USA), 36 under par; 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BLOODSTOCK SALES

Lead horse bought for Derby winner

By a Special Correspondent

The Derby winner, Slip Anchor, will have the benefit of a lead horse in his preparation for the Coronation Cup, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes and Arc de Triomphe next year. This was the news at the Newmarket December Sales yesterday when Lord Howard de Walden's sales manager, Leslie Walsby, outbid Diana Smith, the trainer, at \$2,000 guineas to buy the useful staying handicapper, Rakopshi King, submitted from Robert Armstrong's stables.

Slip Anchor's trainer, said: "It's extremely hard to find a decent horse and although I believe this horse pulls hard he should do the job." Cecil then joked: "Mr Armstrong expects me to win the Ascot Gold Cup with him."

Another useful handicapper, Braka, from Ian Balding's stables, fetched 45,000 guineas from Horse France. The French agent was buying for an Argentine owner, Enzo Diella, who will send the four-year-old Lyphard colt to be trained by Aldo Boti in Milan.

Henry Candy's Coleridge, a rising two-year-old, Hamelin was also bought to race abroad. He made 42,000 guineas when knocked down to the Agency Monaco, whose rider, Luis Urbano, secured the colt for a new owner in Spain.

Joss Collins of the British Bloodstock Agency told the price list when paying 94,000 guineas for the 15-year-old mare, Red Laser, in fact to Trojan Fen. She was bought for Crescent Farms UK Ltd, which is the English-based branch of the Kentucky Stud.

Jockey Club act on betting shops

The Jockey Club has proposed their support for the continued existence of betting shops, which are due to be considered by Parliament next Tuesday, December 10. However, at the same time, the Club repeated their warning to MPs that the transformation of betting shops to allow television and refreshments is bound to have an adverse effect on racecourse attendances.

They are therefore seeking assurances from the Government that they will enter into constructive discussions with the racing industry on matters to help maintain racing as a spectator sport.

In a letter sent this week to Peter Brooke, the Treasury Minister, the Jockey Club have renewed their call for the abolition of on-course betting duty.

More sport, page 28



Knockout combination: First Bout, this year's Triumph Hurdle winner, and Nicky Henderson, his trainer.

High-flying Henderson holds aces

First Bout's victory in the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle last March was one of the great success stories of the National Hunt festival. Not only is the four-year-old champion one of the most difficult races of the meeting to win, it also seldom falls to a horse who made his first appearance over hurdles at Plumpton only 17 days earlier, having been backed to win a fortune in the Triumph ante-post market before that.

The inevitable horde of punters and friends and supporters of Nicky Henderson, the victorious trainer, descended on the unsullied enclosure, Ben Hanbury, the immaculately dressed Newmarket trainer and the man who had sold First Bout to Henderson after the

quarters is a comfortable Georgian-style building in Lambourn. It backs on to the stable yard with its 26 old boxes and another 26 which added three years ago. Tom Rimeell, Syd Mercer and Peter Walsby have all trained there in the past.

Henderson's happy family background immediately became apparent. Sarah and Tessa, his young daughters, were obviously keen to take part in the interview in the sitting room lined with pictures of stable heroes such as Zongolero, runner-up to Rubic in the 1979 Grand National and Speddy Missile.

The latter won 24 races, first for his owner-breeder, the late John Thorne, and more recently when joined in partnership by the great corinthian's widow, Wendy, and sometimes ridden by Diane Henderson, the trainer's wife and her twin sister, Jane Sloan.

Henderson, who is 35 next week, is the son of John and Sarah Henderson. The trainer's mother was killed in a hunting accident in 1972. His father, ADC to Field-Marshal Montgomery during the War, is now a very active retired stockbroker — to use his son's words.

Educated at Eton and brought up at the family home, West Woodhay near Newbury, the young Henderson felt the lure of the turf from an early age. Fred Winter was the aspiring young jockey's mentor.

Doing six years as an amateur, Henderson's 69 wins included an Imperial Cup on Aqueduct and a Liverpool Foxhunters on his old friend, Happy Warrior.

Henderson started training in July 1978, having married Diana Thorne the previous month. In the past five seasons the stable has boasted a consistent record with between 30 and 44 winners.

The art of training is not easily learnt,

but the results of the past two seasons have shown dramatically that Henderson is fast becoming a master of his craft. However, with both himself and his wife steeped in the traditions of hunting and chasing, it is hardly surprising that he has no intention of diverting his attention to the more profitable flat.

"I wouldn't want the hassle of it all," he explains. "I know there's comparatively little money in chasing and that there's no end product to sell. In fact, I sometimes think that jumping trainers and owners are all bloody mad. But there's nothing like it. We all get so much crack and fun out of it. Both the horses and owners become mates."

The bold and irrepressible Smith Eccles

Championship the exclusive target

is the retained stable jockey and the stylish John White rides today daily and is a strong back up force. "I'm lucky to have them both," the trainer says. "John rides when Steve is not available and he also has his own horses like Gringo and The Tsarevich."

After a slow start to the season because of the firm ground in the autumn, the yard should soon be moving into top gear. "First Bout is very fit, but I've decided not to take on Gaye Brier at Cheltenham tomorrow. I'm going to wait for the SGB Hire Shops Hurdle at Ascot the following weekend."

"See You Then has done himself very well during the summer and he won't be seen out until after Christmas. He'll be trained exclusively for the championship."

Michael Seely

More sport, page 28

Festival hoodoo ended in style

horse's win in the Newbury Autumn Cup, was the principal cheerleader. "It's fantastic, it's incredible," Hanbury said. "All my lads have won fortunes and I had a pretty good touch myself."

For Henderson it was the highlight of his seven-year career as a trainer. Not only had he broken his Festival hoodoo, he had done it in style. On the Tuesday See You Then and Steve Smith Exiles had swapped to a convincing win in the Weymouth Cup. On Wednesday the Tsarevich had taken advantage of the fall of his stable companion, Green Bramble, to capture the Midway of Fleet Challenge Cup. And now First Bout had made it a glorious treble.

At the end of the season Henderson was fifth in the trainers' table behind Fred Winter, having won 40 races worth £148,479.

Windsor House, the trainer's head-

Devon & Exeter

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 **Crest** AM.
6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Debbie Greenwood. Weather at 6.55, 7.25, 7.55, 8.25 and 8.55; regional news, weather and travel at 8.57, 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27; national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 8.55; sport at 7.20 and 8.20; Lynn Faulds Wood's consumer report at 8.15. Plus, Enry Hughes with his series on re-creating Britain's football image; Glyn Christian's weekend shopping advice; Alan Titchmarsh's gardening hints; a round-up of pop music news; and Christmas presents for people who have everything.

9.20 **Crest**. 10.30 **Play School** (10.50 **Crest**).

12.30 **News After Noon** with Frances Coverdale and Moira Stuart includes subtitled news headlines, 12.55 Regional news and weather.

1.00 **Pebble Mill** at One with Bob Langley, Marian Foster and Josephine Buchanan. The Army Cadet Force celebrates its 125th anniversary with a display of music and marching on Pebble Mill's stage (1.15). While Peter Seabrook tells about in the garden, 1.45 Chigley (1).

2.00 **Racing from Cheltenham**, introduced by Julian Wilson. The Good Brokers' Amateur Steeplechase (2.15); the Embassy Premier Steeplechase Qualifier (2.50); and the Coral Golden Hurdle Qualifier (3.25). 3.45 interval. 3.52 **Regional News**.

3.55 **Paddington is Recommended** (4.10 **Contest** Ma In. Antony Johns does what he knows best - dancing, 4.15 **Top Gear**. Cartoon (1). 4.20 **Spy Trap**. Theme from *Alfred Hitchcock's* *Psycho* (4.25). 4.30 **Regional News**. 4.40 **Record Breakers** includes an attempt on the world speed skating record. With Roy Castle, 5.05 **Grange Hill**. Episode 14 and 14 plan a joyride (1) (Crest).

5.35 **Masterpiece**, presented by Angela Rippon.

6.00 **News with Sue Lawley** and Nicholas Wintzell. Weather.

6.35 **London Plus**.

7.00 **Wogan**. The guests tonight include Diana Kurr, Jim Henson with Kermit, and Joni Mitchell.

7.40 **Blankety Blank**. Liza Dawson is joined by Anna Dawson, Olive Dunn, Clement Freud, Thora Hird, Karen Kay and Kenny Lynch (Crest).

8.15 **Dynasty**. Amanda and Alexis arrive in *Medivia* to find Michael's former fiancée, the Duchess of Brana, sharing his bed. So, once more, the wedding of the century is off. Meanwhile, Sammy Jo uses her new-found wealth to try to regain custody of baby Danny (Crest).

9.00 **News with John Humphrys** and Andrew Harvey. Weather.

9.25 **John Lennon: A Journey in the Life**. An *Everyman* special starring Bernard Hill as John Lennon in a programme blending archive film, dramatization, interviews and five music, telling the story of Lennon's search to understand his own complicated personality. With Peter Cook, Roy Orbison, Stanley Unwin, Zoot Money and, as a Time critic, Jonathan Cecil (Crest) (see Choice).

11.05 **Film: Electra Glide in Blue** (1978) starring Linda Blair as an Arizona motorcycle policeman dreaming of becoming a detective. When his chance comes after he finds a body he soon discovers that it is not the glamorous life he imagined. Directed by James William Guercio.

12.55 **Weather**.

TV-am

6.15 **Good Morning Britain**, presented by Anne Diamond and Henry Kelly. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.17, 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; overseas at 6.20; sport at 8.35 and 7.34; cartoon at 7.24; pop video at 7.56; Nigel Dempster's gossip column at 8.25; Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at 8.34; Country Diary of Crafts at 8.54; winter leisure wear at 9.12.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 **Thames news headlines** followed by *The Nature of Things*. An island of monkeys.

9.55 **Film: How Green Was My Valley** (1941) starring Walter Pidgeon and Maureen O'Hara. John Ford won an Oscar for his direction of this drama set in a Welsh mining village. Hux Morgan, now a middle-aged man, looks back at the childhood he spent with his father, sister and brothers. With Roddy McDowall and Barry Fitzgerald.

12.00 **Haggerty Haggerty**. George Cole with another tale about a friendly witch (1). 12.10 **Readers Learning** for the young made simple (Crest).

12.30 **Eye to the Future**. Rachel Heyhoe-Filt and Ted Mout in the beautiful garden of Stourhead in Wiltshire.

1.00 **News at One** with Leonard Aspin. 1.20 **Thames news**.

1.30 **Film: Skyward** (1980) starring Bette Midler and Howard Hesseman. A made-for-television drama about a paraplegic who is taken under the wing of a former stuntman when she learns that the young girl would like to fly. Directed by Ron Howard. 3.25 **Thames news headlines**, 3.30 **Sons and Daughters**.

4.00 **Rainbow: A Report of the programme shown at 12.10**. 4.15 **Thames news** and *The Time Engine* and *Friends* (1). 4.25 **Worldwide**. Computer-based geography quiz, presented by David Jensen (Crest). 4.50 **Year Mother Wouldn't Like It**. Comedy show.

5.15 **Blockbusters**.

5.45 **News with John Sothel**.

6.00 **The 6 O'Clock Show**.

7.00 **Albion Market**. The Travis's wedding anniversary is not one they will forget (Crest).

7.30 **Me and My Girl**. Comedy series about a widower and his teenage daughter, who this week indulges in a bit of matchmaking with her friend Gemma.

8.00 **T. J. Hooker**. Stacy and a badly wounded Corrigan are taken hostage by three desperate murderers. Hooker summons a SWAT team to help free them.

9.00 **P. D. James: The Black Tower**. Episode five of the six-part drama and another suspicious death heightens tension at the nursing home. Meanwhile, Delaney makes a disturbing discovery (Crest).

10.00 **News at Ten** with Alastair Burnet and Mary Lewis. Weather followed by LWT news headlines.

10.30 **The London Programme** presented by John Taylor. The Hunt for London's Multiple Rapists examines the problems facing the Metropolitan Police in their search for the two men they believe responsible for 27 rapes.

11.00 **Snooker: Hovestemmer World Doubles**. Fourth round played at the Darnley Centre, Northampton.

11.45 **Darts: The Western World Masters** from the Rainbow Rooms, Kensington.

12.30 **Trapper John**. Gonzo's attempts to make small talk with a new female colleague earns him a rebuff in the name of women's film.

1.20 **Night Thoughts**.

BBC 2

9.00 **Crest**.

9.30 **Daytime on Two**: Italian conversation 8.52. The final episode of *Dark Towers*, a ghost story for children, 10.15 *Maths* graphs. 10.30 *Richard Burrows* examines the world trade of the Middle Ages. 11.00 *The Animals of Scotland* that come alive at night. 11.22 *Have the fruits of Brazil's economic development been shared by the whole population?*

11.44 **Job satisfaction**. 12.05 *Lesson ten* of a computer for beginners' course. 12.35 *The principle behind the use of microcomputers* (ends at 1.00). 1.10 *Science: relationships*. 1.35 *Why is science fiction so popular?* 2.00 *Coping with stress*. 2.30 *An award-winning drama* documentary starring Joanna David and Kenneth Cranham, about Charlotte Brontë and her heroine, *Jane Eyre*.

3.00 **Crest**.

5.30 **News Summary** with subtitles. Weather.

5.35 **Film: The Treasure Seekers** (1977) starring Rod Taylor and Stuart Whitman. Two men search for the fabled treasure of Henry Morgan, off the coast of Jamaica. Directed by Henry Levin.

7.00 **Micro Live**. Includes a report on the use of computers to price antiques.

7.30 **Ebony**, presented by Juliet Anderson. This week's edition of the magazine programme for Britain's black community includes a profile of musician Shirley Thompson.

8.00 **Zoo 2000**. Jeremy Charles examines the problems of breeding exotic animals (1). Being to put introduced by Susan Hampshire and Geoff Hamilton. The last of the series concentrates on the overwintering Christmas tree; poinsettias; ideas for Christmas presents; and advice on composts, watering and feeding.

9.00 **Entertainment USA**, introduced by Jonathan King from Salt Lake City, Utah. Among those Mr King meets are the first woman film director, AC/DC, Foreigner, and Jimmy Osmond.

9.30 **Hallelujah Handel**. A tribute to the composer by Angela Rippon, John Armit, Anthony Mielage and Jacob Simon. *Did You See?* - 9 interviews with Ludo Kennedy. David Kirsch reviews On Angel's Wings. Alan Coran comments on Girls on Top; and Miyoko Docherty discusses Anna's Strange Case of Yuki Mishima.

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CHANNEL 4

2.30 **Coupling On**. Fred Harris explains how to use a variety of different maps, both in the studio and on location (1).

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4.30 **Countdown**. Yesterday's winner is challenged by Neil Stein from Birmingham, Kent.

5.00 **I Dream of Jeannie**. Dr. Salovey's wife pays an unexpected visit to Tony's house where she tells in love with the exotic beauty that houses Jeannie. She borrows a place to have it copied and when Tony calls to collect the bottle he accidentally takes the replica.

5.30 **The Tube**, presented by Joanne Holland and Paula Yates. Includes a film report of Dr. Straits in Israel, together with footage of their Brothers in Arms concert. Live in the studio are *Go West*, *Big Audio* Dynasties and *Go West*. *Big Audio* Dynasties and *Go West*. *Big Audio* Dynasties and *Go West*. *Big Audio* Dynasties and *Go West*.

7.00 **Channel Four News** with Peter Sissons. Weather.

7.30 **Right To Reply**. Shaun O'Riordan defends his comedy series *Troubles* and *Drifts* against accusations that it is offensive to unmarried mothers.

8.00 **Just Testing**. A topical Week in Politics special examining the facts and fiction behind the AIDS government's decision to test the atomic bomb in the Australian deserts and islands, tests that have been under scrutiny by an Australian Royal Commission for the past 14 months. The programme includes previously unseen archive film of the Maralinga A-bomb tests and an interview with the Commission chairman, Judge James McClelland.

9.00 **Brothers**. Now that he has come of age, Cliff has to go to work. He is persuaded by Lou to attend a Gay No More encounter group.

9.30 **Gardeners' Calendar**. Seasonal jobs discussed by Peter Cook and Roy Orbison.

10.00 **Agony**. Comedy series starring Murray Liman as an 'agony aunt' who cannot sort out her own life (1) (Crest).

10.30 **Abraham: A Foreign Body**. Steven H. 9 interviews with Ludo Kennedy. David Kirsch reviews On Angel's Wings. Alan Coran comments on Girls on Top; and Miyoko Docherty discusses Anna's Strange Case of Yuki Mishima.

11.00 **News at Ten** with Alastair Burnet and Mary Lewis. Weather followed by LWT news headlines.

11.30 **Film: Philadelphia**. Here I Come (1970) starring Slobodan McKenna and Donald McNeill. A gentle comedy about a young Irishman having difficulty in deciding whether or not to leave his poor village for the riches of Philadelphia. Directed by John Guercio. Ends at 1.15.

CHOICE

us to see this Lennon biography as a spiritual quest, although the odyssey does not use the maps of religious orthodoxy. "God is a concept by which we measure pain," says Lennon at one stage, through the lips of actor Bernard Hill whose impersonation is approximate rather than slavish, and all the better for it.

● **A FOREIGN BODY** (Channel 4, 10.30pm). Alan Harris's play in the *Academy* series that swings from drama to documentary and back again, is an extraordinarily passionate and non-physical account of an extra-marital relationship. In this hotel bedroom, there are no agitated couplings and only the minimum of pared flesh. Except for a chaste kiss and the discarded clothing flung across the

armchairs, you could almost believe that the wife (Clare Higgins), engaged in her first bout of infidelity, and the Argentine bank official (Jonathan Hyde) who is her lover, had been playing a game of chess. Mr Higgins, who also directed the play, opts for an examination of acuity that is not psychological nor physical. It is not what we have come to expect from TV dramas about forbidden love, and I welcome this intelligent deviation.

● **Radio choice**: Artists before them having done the space-work, the mezzo-soprano Sarah Walker and her accompanist Roger Vignoles have now completed the task taking the stiffness out of their voices and playing. Don't just take my word for it. Listen to them tonight, on Radio 3 (7.30 and 8.30).

Peter Davalle

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